NEGATIVE DECLARATION & NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING
976 OSOS STREET • ROOM 200 • SAN LUIS OBISPO • CALIFORNIA 93408 • (805) 781-5600

Promoting the Wise Use of Land • Helping to Build Great Communities

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION NO. ED12-095 **DATE:** February 14, 2013

PROJECT/ENTITLEMENT: Public Works – Initial Study for Bridge Preventative Maintenance Program, ; (245R12B580)

APPLICANT NAME: County of San Luis Obispo, Department of Public Works
ADDRESS: County Government Center, Room 207
CONTACT PERSON: San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 **Telephone:** (805) 781-5252

PROPOSED USES/INTENT: This item is a request to approve the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Department of Public Works' proposed Bridge Preventative Maintenance Program for three bridges that will repair the existing paint system and help protect the bridges from future corrosion. A containment system will be in place to collect all water, debris, and dust produced during cleaning and painting operations. Following the cleaning operations, the structural steel members will be primed and painted. The proposed project includes cleaning and painting bridges at the following locations: Stenner Creek Road at Stenner Creek Bridge (#49C0085), west of the City of San Luis Obispo; Tassajara Creek Road at Santa Margarita Creek Bridge (#49C0281) south of the community of Santa Margarita; and Buckley Road at East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge (#49C0106) south of the City of San Luis Obispo.

LOCATION: The proposed projects are located in the Agriculture land use category in Supervisorial Districts 2, 3, and 5, within the San Luis Obispo and Salinas River planning areas.

LEAD AGENCY: **County of San Luis Obispo**
Dept of Planning & Building
976 Osos Street, Rm. 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040

Website: http://www.sloplanning.org

OTHER POTENTIAL PERMITTING AGENCIES: California Department of Fish and Game

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW: YES ☒ **NO** ☐

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information pertaining to this environmental Determination may be obtained by contacting the above Lead Agency address of (805)781-5600.

COUNTY "REQUEST FOR REVIEW" PERIOD ENDS AT .....4:30 p.m. (2 wks from above DATE)

30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD begins at the time of public notification

Notice of Determination

State Clearinghouse No. _____

This is to advise that the San Luis Obispo County_____ as ☐ *Lead Agency* ☐ *Responsible Agency* approved/denied the above described project on _____, and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Mitigation measures and monitoring were made a condition of approval of the project. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Negative Declaration with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at the 'Lead Agency' address above.

Signature	Katie Drexhage **Project Manager Name**	**Date**	County of San Luis Obispo **Public Agency**

Bridge Preventative Maintenance Program
ED12-095/ WBS 245R12B580

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, NOTICE OF DETERMINATION, & INITIAL STUDY

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING
ENVIRONMENTAL & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

County File Number: ED12-095 (245R12B580) SCH Number: _____

COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BRIDGE PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION & INITIAL STUDY

Abstract

A request by County Public Works for a Bridge Preventative Maintenance Program for three bridges that will repair the existing paint system and help protect the bridges from future corrosion. A containment system will be in place to collect all water, debris, and dust produced during cleaning and painting operations. Following the cleaning operations, the structural steel members will be primed and painted. The proposed project includes cleaning and painting bridges at the following locations: Stenner Creek Road at Stenner Creek Bridge (#49C0085), west of the City of San Luis Obispo; Tassajara Creek Road at Santa Margarita Creek Bridge (#49C0281) south of the community of Santa Margarita; and Buckley Road at East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge (#49C0106) south of the City of San Luis Obispo. The projects are located in the Agriculture land use category, within the San Luis Obispo and Salinas River planning areas. Comments on this document should be sent to Katie Drexhage, County Department of Public Works, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408.

The following persons may be contacted for additional information concerning this document:

Katie Drexhage, Environmental Programs Division
or
Frank Cunningham, Project Manager
County Department of Public Works
County Government Center, Room 207
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
(805) 781-5252

This proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration has been issued by:

1-16-13
Date

Ellen Carroll
Ellen Carroll, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Luis Obispo

The project proponent, who agrees to implement the mitigation measures for the project, is:

2-4-13
Date

Paavo Ogren
Paavo Ogren, Director of Public Works
County of San Luis Obispo

Initial Study Summary – Environmental Checklist

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING
976 OSOS STREET • ROOM 200 • SAN LUIS OBISPO • CALIFORNIA 93408 • (805) 781-5600

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(ver 3.3)

County Public Works - Bridge Preventative Maintenance Program **ED12-095 (245R12B580)**

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: The proposed project could have a "Potentially Significant Impact" for at least one of the environmental factors checked below. Please refer to the attached pages for discussion on mitigation measures or project revisions to either reduce these impacts to less than significant levels or require further study.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Geology and Soils	☐ Recreation
☐ Agricultural Resources	☒ Hazards/Hazardous Materials	☐ Transportation/Circulation
☒ Air Quality	☐ Noise	☐ Wastewater
☒ Biological Resources	☐ Population/Housing	☐ Water
☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Public Services/Utilities	☐ Land Use

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation, the Environmental Coordinator finds that:

☐ The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ The proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Katie Drexhage — Signature — 1/15/13
Prepared by (Print) — Date

Steve McMasters — Signature — Ellen Carroll, Environmental Coordinator (for) — 1/15/13
Reviewed by (Print) — Date

Project Environmental Analysis

The County's environmental review process incorporates all of the requirements for completing the Initial Study as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines. The Initial Study includes staff's on-site inspection of the project site and surroundings and a detailed review of the information in the file for the project. In addition, available background information is reviewed for each project. Relevant information regarding soil types and characteristics, geologic information, significant vegetation and/or wildlife resources, water availability, wastewater disposal services, existing land uses and surrounding land use categories and other information relevant to the environmental review process are evaluated for each project. Exhibit A includes the references used, as well as the agencies or groups that were contacted as a part of the Initial Study. The Environmental Division uses the checklist to summarize the results of the research accomplished during the initial environmental review of the project.

Persons, agencies or organizations interested in obtaining more information regarding the environmental review process for a project should contact the County of San Luis Obispo Environmental Division, Rm. 200, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408-2040 or call (805) 781-5600.

A. PROJECT

DESCRIPTION: Request by County Public Works for a Bridge Preventative Maintenance Program for three bridges that will repair the existing paint system and help protect the bridges from future corrosion. A containment system will be in place to collect all water, debris, and dust produced during cleaning and painting operations. Following the cleaning operations, the structural steel members will be primed and painted. The proposed project includes cleaning and painting bridges at the following locations: Stenner Creek Road at Stenner Creek Bridge (#49C0085), west of the City of San Luis Obispo; Tassajara Creek Road at Santa Margarita Creek Bridge (#49C0281) south of the community of Santa Margarita; and Buckley Road at East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge (#49C0106) south of the City of San Luis Obispo. The projects are located in the Agriculture land use category, within the San Luis Obispo and Salinas River planning areas.

Background. The bridges that are the subject of the Program area showing wear are in need of repainting. The areas of the existing lead-based paint system that are failing will be cleaned using hand-held sand blasting equipment. To prepare the surfaces for painting, the structural steel members will be steam cleaned or pressure washed to remove all dirt, grease, loose paint, or other foreign material. A containment system will be in place to collect all water, debris, and dust produced during cleaning and painting operations. The containment system will remain in place for the duration of the project. Containment will be accomplished with either: 1) ventilated containment structure; or 2) vacuum shrouded surface preparation equipment and drapes or tarps; or 3) an equivalent containment system. Debris accumulated inside the containment system will be removed before the end of each work shift and stored in leak-proof containers. Debris will be disposed of at a Class I disposal facility in conformance with applicable Federal, State, and local hazardous waste laws. Following the cleaning operations, the structural steel members will be primed and painted. If necessary, scaffolding will be placed into the creek beds by hand to allow access to the steel members. No ground disturbance is anticipated. Work will occur during the dry season when no water, or the least amount of water, is present in each creek. The proposed project includes cleaning and painting bridges at the following locations: Stenner Creek Road at Stenner Creek Bridge (#49C0085), Tassajara Creek Road at Santa Margarita Creek Bridge (#49C0281), and Buckley Road at East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge (#49C0106). Project activities at Stenner Creek Bridge and Santa Margarita Creek Bridge would take approximately 15 days to complete and East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge would take approximately 20 days to complete.

ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER(S): Roadway Right-of-Way		SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT #
Stenner Creek Bridge:	Latitude: 35°19'27.82"N Longitude: 120°40'30.92"W	Stenner Creek Bridge: 5
Santa Margarita Creek Bridge:	Latitude: 35°22'14.15"N Longitude: 120°38'30.73"W	Santa Margarita Creek Bridge: 2
East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge:	Latitude: 35°14'08.82"N Longitude: 120°39'29.22"W	East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge: 3

B. EXISTING SETTING

Please refer to Figure 1 for the regional location of the bridge sites and Figure 2 for the specific bridge locations within the context of the San Luis Obispo area.

Stenner Creek Bridge

PLANNING AREA: San Luis Obispo Planning Area

LAND USE CATEGORY: Agriculture

COMBINING DESIGNATION(S): Geologic Study Area and Flood Hazard

EXISTING USES: County Right-of-Way

TOPOGRAPHY: The banks on the downstream side of the bridge are moderately steep, while the banks on the upstream side of the bridge are less steep. The bridge area itself is generally flat.

VEGETATION: Central Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest

PARCEL SIZE: The bridge extends approximately 12.2 meters (40 feet) from the centerline of Stenner Creek Road.

SURROUNDING LAND USE CATEGORIES AND USES:

North: Agriculture; Riparian zone	*East:* Agriculture and Public Facility; Riparian zone and public facility approximately 2,000 feet northwest of the bridge site.
South: Agriculture; Riparian zone	*West:* Agriculture; Riparian zone

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge

PLANNING AREA: Salinas River Planning Area

LAND USE CATEGORY: Agriculture

COMBINING DESIGNATION(S): N/A

EXISTING USES: County Right-of-Way

TOPOGRAPHY: The creek banks are moderately steep and the bridge is generally flat.

VEGETATION: Central Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest and Ruderal.

PARCEL SIZE: The bridge extends approximately 12.2 meters (40 feet) from the centerline of Tassajara Creek Road

SURROUNDING LAND USE CATEGORIES AND USES:

North: Agriculture; Riparian zones	*East:* Agriculture; Riparian zones and Highway 101.
South: Multi-Use; Riparian zones	*West:* Agriculture; Riparian zones

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

PLANNING AREA: San Luis Obispo Planning Area

LAND USE CATEGORY: Agriculture

COMBINING DESIGNATION(S): Energy Extractive Area and Flood Hazard

EXISTING USES: County Right-of-Way

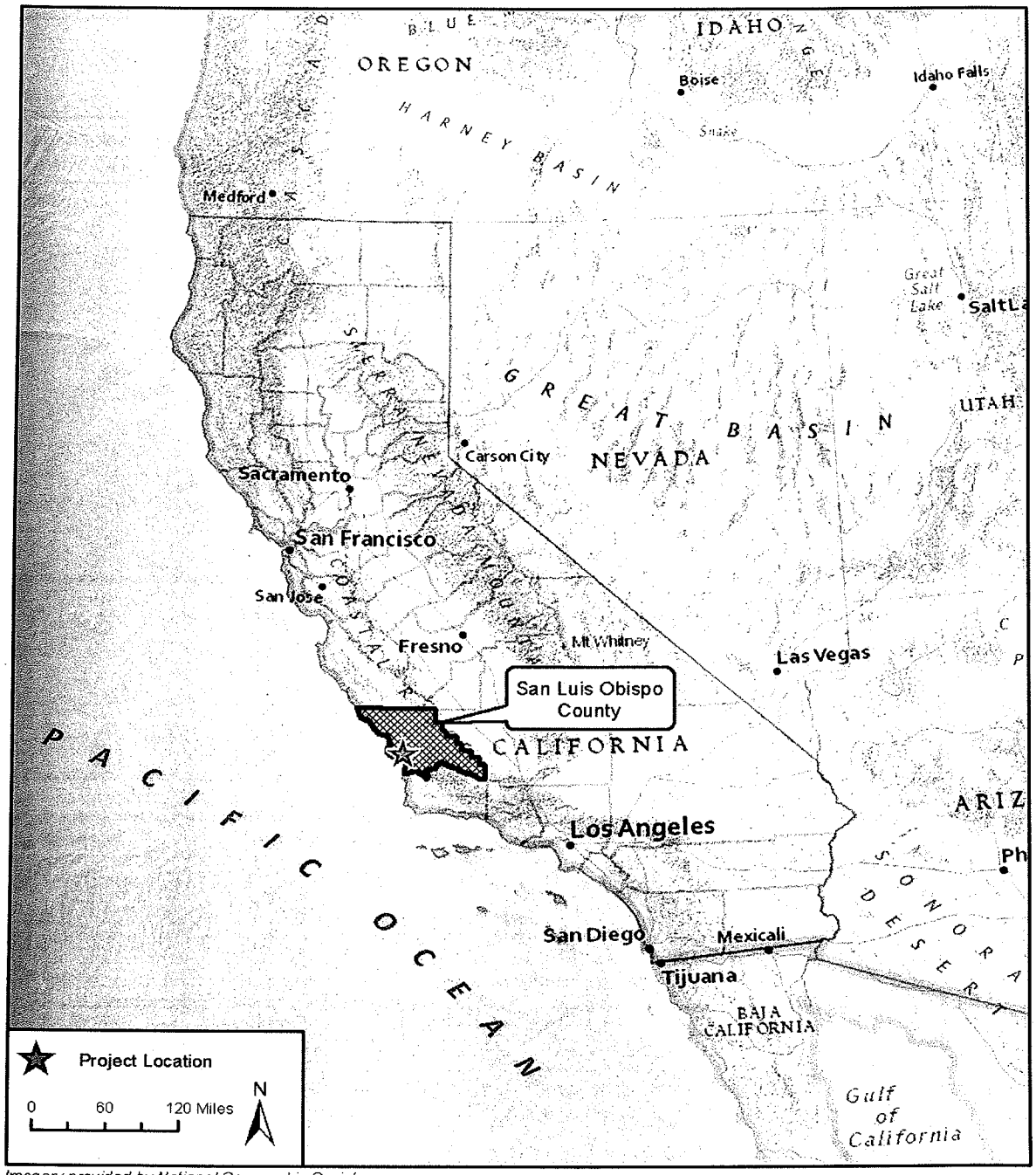
TOPOGRAPHY: The creek banks are fairly steep and the bridge itself is generally flat.

VEGETATION: Central Coast Arroyo Willow Riparian Forest, Non-native grassland, and Ruderal.

PARCEL SIZE: The bridge extends approximately 12.2 meters (40 feet) from the centerline of Buckley Road.

SURROUNDING LAND USE CATEGORIES AND USES:

North: Agriculture; Row crops and grazed grasslands	*East:* Agriculture; Grazed grasslands
South: Agriculture; Row crops and grazed grasslands	*West:* Agriculture; Grazed grasslands



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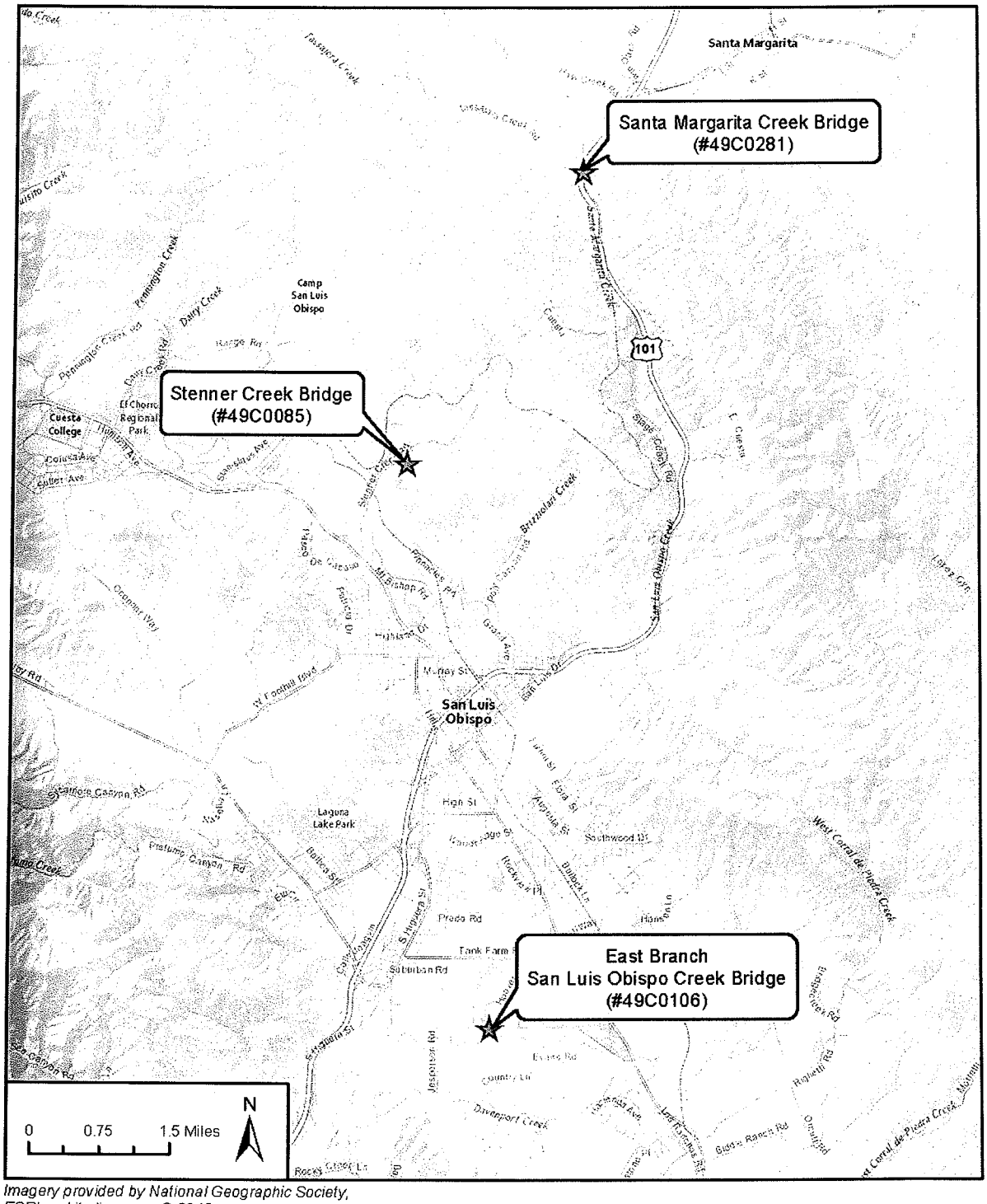
Regional Location

Figure 1



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Project Locations

Figure 2

C. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

During the Initial Study process, several issues were identified as having potentially significant environmental effects (see following Initial Study). Those potentially significant items associated with the proposed uses can be minimized to less than significant levels.

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

1. **AESTHETICS** - ***Will the project:***	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Create an aesthetically incompatible site open to public view?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Introduce a use within a scenic view open to public view?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Change the visual character of an area?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create glare or night lighting, which may affect surrounding areas?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Impact unique geological or physical features?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting.

Stenner Creek Bridge

The Stenner Creek Bridge is located on Stenner Creek Road in rural San Luis Obispo County, approximately 1 mile north of the City of San Luis Obispo. The bridge is located over Stenner Creek within a mountainous region of the Santa Lucia Range. The area directly surrounding the bridge consists of Central Coast Live Oak riparian habitat. Surrounding land uses include cattle ranches and open space. Stenner Creek is a perennial stream with water typically present throughout the year. The nearest main roadway is Highway 1, which is approximately one mile southwest of the bridge site.

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge

The Santa Margarita Creek Bridge is located on Tassajara Creek Road, approximately two miles southwest of the community of Santa Margarita in rural San Luis Obispo County. Santa Margarita Creek is a perennial stream with water typically present throughout the year. The area directly surrounding the bridge consists of riparian and ruderal habitat. Land uses in the surrounding region include a mixture of private and public lands used primarily for cattle grazing and residential use. The bridge is located adjacent to Highway 101.

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

The East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge is located on Buckley Road in Edna Valley, which is in unincorporated San Luis Obispo County, just south of the City of San Luis Obispo. The East Branch of San Luis Obispo Creek is an intermittent to perennial stream. The area directly surrounding the bridge consists of Central Coast Arroyo Willow riparian forest, ruderal habitat, and non-native grassland. Land uses in the surrounding region include grazed grasslands and row crop agriculture.

Buckley Road is a County-designated collector street, and the bridge is located approximately 1.7 miles east of State Route 227.

Impact.

Stenner Creek Bridge

The proposed project would clean and re-paint the existing bridge facilities, improving the visual appearance of the bridges. Paint materials would be waterborne acrylic latex paint formulated to meet the service requirements for bridge maintenance and would not be reflective. The paint color would be a neutral green color, visually compatible with the natural environment. No new structures would be constructed and surrounding views would remain unchanged, including the visual features of the riparian corridor. In addition, the painted portion of the bridge would be hidden from street level and further protected by vegetation. Project activities, such as staging, containment, and scaffolding, could result in unsightly views of the project area during the 15 day project period, but the project is not located on a major roadway and the exposure to public view would be temporary. Therefore, impacts to compatibility, scenic views, light and glare, and unique physical features would be less than significant.

The existing use of the Stenner Creek Bridge would remain the same; therefore no new use would be introduced into a scenic view. Impacts related to new uses would not be applicable.

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge

The proposed project would clean and re-paint the existing bridge facilities, improving the visual appearance of the bridge. Paint materials would be waterborne acrylic latex paint formulated to meet the service requirements for bridge maintenance and would not be reflective. The paint color would be a neutral green color, visually compatible with the natural environment. No new structures would be constructed and surrounding views would remain unchanged, including the visual features of the riparian corridor. Furthermore, the painted portion of the bridge would be hidden from street level and further protected by vegetation. Project activities, such as staging, containment, and scaffolding, could result in unsightly views of the project area during the 15 day project period, which would be visible to motorists along Highway 101. However, at highway speeds, visibility of the project site would only last a few seconds, as it is largely blocked from the southbound and northbound approaches by riparian vegetation. Furthermore, the exposure of project activities to public view would be temporary. Therefore, impacts to compatibility, scenic views, light and glare, and unique physical features would be less than significant.

The existing use of the Santa Margarita Creek Bridge would remain the same; therefore no new use would be introduced into a scenic view. There would be no impacts.

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

The proposed project would clean and re-paint the existing bridge facilities, improving the visual appearance of the bridge. Paint materials would be waterborne acrylic latex paint formulated to meet the service requirements for bridge maintenance and would not be reflective. The paint color would be a neutral green color, visually compatible with the natural environment. No new structures would be constructed and surrounding views would remain unchanged, including the unique features of the riparian corridor. Furthermore, the painted portion of the bridge would be hidden from street level and further protected by vegetation. Buckley Road is a collector street within the County and the project site is readily visible to travelers along this road. Project activities, such as staging, containment, and scaffolding, could result in unsightly views of the project area during the 20 day project period. However, the surrounding area is comprised of active agricultural uses with the airport located in middleground and background views. Therefore, project activities would be compatible with surrounding uses. Furthermore, the exposure of project activities to public view would be temporary. Therefore, impacts to compatibility, scenic views, light and glare, and unique physical features would be less than significant.

The existing use of the East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge would remain the same; therefore no new use would be introduced into a scenic view. There would be no impacts.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No mitigation measures would be necessary.

2. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES - *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Convert prime agricultural land to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Impair agricultural use of other property or result in conversion to other uses?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Conflict with existing zoning or Williamson Act program?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting.

Stenner Creek Bridge

Stenner Creek Bridge is located within a riparian habitat along Stenner Creek Road. The bridge is located in rural San Luis Obispo County and is adjacent to a cattle ranch and open space.

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge is located within a riparian habitat along Tassajara Creek Road. The bridge is located in rural San Luis Obispo County and is adjacent to a cattle ranch and a public recreational area.

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge is located within a riparian habitat along Buckley Road. The bridge is located in rural San Luis Obispo County and is adjacent to grazed grasslands and row crop agriculture.

Impact.

Stenner Creek Bridge, Santa Margarita Creek Bridge, and East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

Project activities at the three bridge sites would consist of cleaning and re-painting of existing structures. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the conversion of agricultural land to a non-agricultural use, nor would it impair the use of adjacent agricultural operations. The proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning or Williamson Act lands at any of the three bridge sites because no change of use would occur and no new structures would be built. Therefore, impacts to agricultural resources would be less than significant.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No mitigation measures would be necessary.

3. AIR QUALITY - *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Violate any state or federal ambient air quality standard, or exceed air quality emission thresholds as established by County Air Pollution Control District?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Expose any sensitive receptor to substantial air pollutant concentrations?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Create or subject individuals to objectionable odors?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be inconsistent with the District's Clean Air Plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting.

Stenner Creek Bridge, Santa Margarita Creek Bridge, and East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

All three of the bridge sites are located within the South Central Coast Air Basin. State air quality oversight for the basin is provided by the San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD). SLOAPCD has developed the CEQA Air Quality Handbook to evaluate project specific impacts and help determine if air quality mitigation measures are needed, or if potentially significant impacts could result. To evaluate long-term emissions, cumulative effects, and establish countywide programs to reach acceptable air quality levels, a Clean Air Plan (2001) has been adopted (prepared by APCD).

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions are said to result in an increase in the earth's average surface temperature. This is commonly referred to as global warming. The rise in global temperature is associated with long-term changes in precipitation, temperature, wind patterns, and other elements of the earth's climate system. This is also known as climate change. These changes are now thought to be broadly attributed to GHG emissions, particularly those emissions that result from the human production and use of fossil fuels.

The passage of AB32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act (2006), recognized the need to reduce GHG emissions and set the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal for the State of California into law. The law required that by 2020, State emissions must be reduced to 1990 levels. This is to be accomplished by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from significant sources via regulation, market mechanisms, and other actions. Subsequent legislation (e.g., SB97-Greenhouse Gas Emissions bill) directed the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop statewide thresholds.

In March 2012, the San Luis Obispo County APCD approved thresholds for GHG emission impacts, and these thresholds have been incorporated into the APCD's CEQA Air Quality Handbook. APCD determined that a tiered process for residential / commercial land use projects was the most appropriate and effective approach for assessing the GHG emission impacts. The tiered approach includes three methods, any of which can be used for any given project:

1. Qualitative GHG Reduction Strategies (e.g. Climate Action Plans): A qualitative threshold that

is consistent with AB 32 Scoping Plan measures and goals; or,
2. Bright-Line Threshold: Numerical value to determine the significance of a project's annual GHG emissions; or,
3. Efficiency-Based Threshold: Assesses the GHG impacts of a project on an emissions per capita basis.

For most projects the Bright-Line Threshold of 1,150 Metric Tons CO2/year (MT CO2e/yr) will be the most applicable threshold. In addition to the residential/commercial threshold options proposed above, a bright-line numerical value threshold of 10,000 MT CO2e/yr was adopted for stationary source (industrial) projects.

It should be noted that projects that generate less than the above mentioned thresholds will also participate in emission reductions because air emissions, including GHGs, are under the purview of the California Air Resources Board (or other regulatory agencies) and will be "regulated" either by CARB, the Federal Government, or other entities. For example, new vehicles will be subject to increased fuel economy standards and emission reductions, large and small appliances will be subject to more strict emissions standards, and energy delivered to consumers will increasingly come from renewable sources. Other programs that are intended to reduce the overall GHG emissions include Low Carbon Fuel Standards, Renewable Portfolio standards and the Clean Car standards. As a result, even the emissions that result from projects that produce fewer emissions than the threshold will be subject to emission reductions.

Under CEQA, an individual project's GHG emissions will generally not result in direct significant impacts. This is because the climate change issue is global in nature. However, an individual project could be found to contribute to a potentially significant cumulative impact. Projects that have GHG emissions above the noted thresholds may be considered cumulatively considerable and require mitigation.

No sensitive receptors are located within 1,000 feet of the Stenner Creek Bridge and Santa Margarita Creek Bridge. There are four residences within 1,000 feet of the East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge site.

The cleaning and re-painting activities of the proposed project are discussed below as the short-term emissions phase for the proposed project. There would be no change to the operational phase of the proposed project bridge sites.

Impact.

Stenner Creek Bridge, Santa Margarita Creek Bridge, and East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

The proposed project would not require the use of any heavy equipment or earthmoving activities. Only minor, hand-held equipment would be required, such as a paint sprayer, pressure washer, sand blaster, steam cleaner, debris containment system, and scaffolding. Cleaning and re-painting of the bridges would require less than 5 worker commuter trips per day and the duration of activities would be limited to 15 to 20 days. Two light duty trucks would be used to haul equipment, and these trips are counted in the daily commuter trips for the short-term emissions phase. The proposed equipment, activities, and limited light truck and commuter trips over a 15-20 day short-term emissions phase would not generate a substantial amount of fugitive dust or engine combustion emissions as there would be no earth disturbance or use of heavy equipment. The bridge painting would generate temporary reactive organic gas (ROG) emissions from the use of a paint sprayer. However, the surface area of the steel members of the bridges is minimal and would not require a substantial volume of paint. Therefore, temporary, short-term emissions generated by the proposed project would be well below SLOAPCD thresholds and would not substantially contribute to the violation of state or federal standards. Furthermore, the low level of emissions generated from project activities would be

consistent with the 2001 Clean Air Plan.

Cleaning and re-painting activities may generate minor odors. However, minor odors generated would be temporary and intermittent. In addition, project activities would occur outdoors and odors generated would dissipate quickly. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

There would be no ongoing operational emissions associated with the project as no further maintenance of the bridge is proposed. Air quality impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The following measures were suggested by SLO APCD in response to a project referral form sent to their office for comments:

AQ-1 All paints used should be compliant with SLO APCD District Rule 433for Architectural Coatings. The sandblasting process will require a permit or registration pursuant to SLO APCD District Rule 202 and be required to use certified abrasives in accordance with Title 17, subchapter 6.

AQ-2 If sand blasting, the contractor must obtain a permit from the APCD or state registration from the Air Resources Board. Also, the contractor must use certified abrasives for unconfined blasting.

AQ-3 Depending on removal method. an APCD permit may be required. Contact the APCD Engineering Division at (805) 781-5912 for more information. Approval of a lead work plan by the APCD is required and must be submitted ten days prior to the start of the demolition.

AQ-4 Portable equipment, 50 horsepower (hp) or greater, used during construction activities may require California statewide portable equipment registration (issued by the California Air Resources Board) or an APCD permit. Operational sources may also require APCD permits.

The following list is provided as a guide to equipment and operations that may have permitting requirements, but should not be viewed as exclusive. For a more detailed listing, refer to the Technical Appendices, page 4-4,in the APCD's 2009 CEQA Handbook.

- Portable generators and equipment with engines that are 50 hp or greater
- Electrical generation plants or the use of standby generator

To minimize potential delays, prior to the start of the project. Please contact the APCD Engineering Division at (805) 781-5912 for specific information regarding permitting requirements.

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Result in a loss of unique or special status species or their habitats?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Reduce the extent, diversity or quality of native or other important vegetation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Impact wetland or riparian habitat?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Introduce barriers to movement of resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or factors, which could hinder the normal activities of wildlife?	☐	☒	☐	☐

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
e) Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐

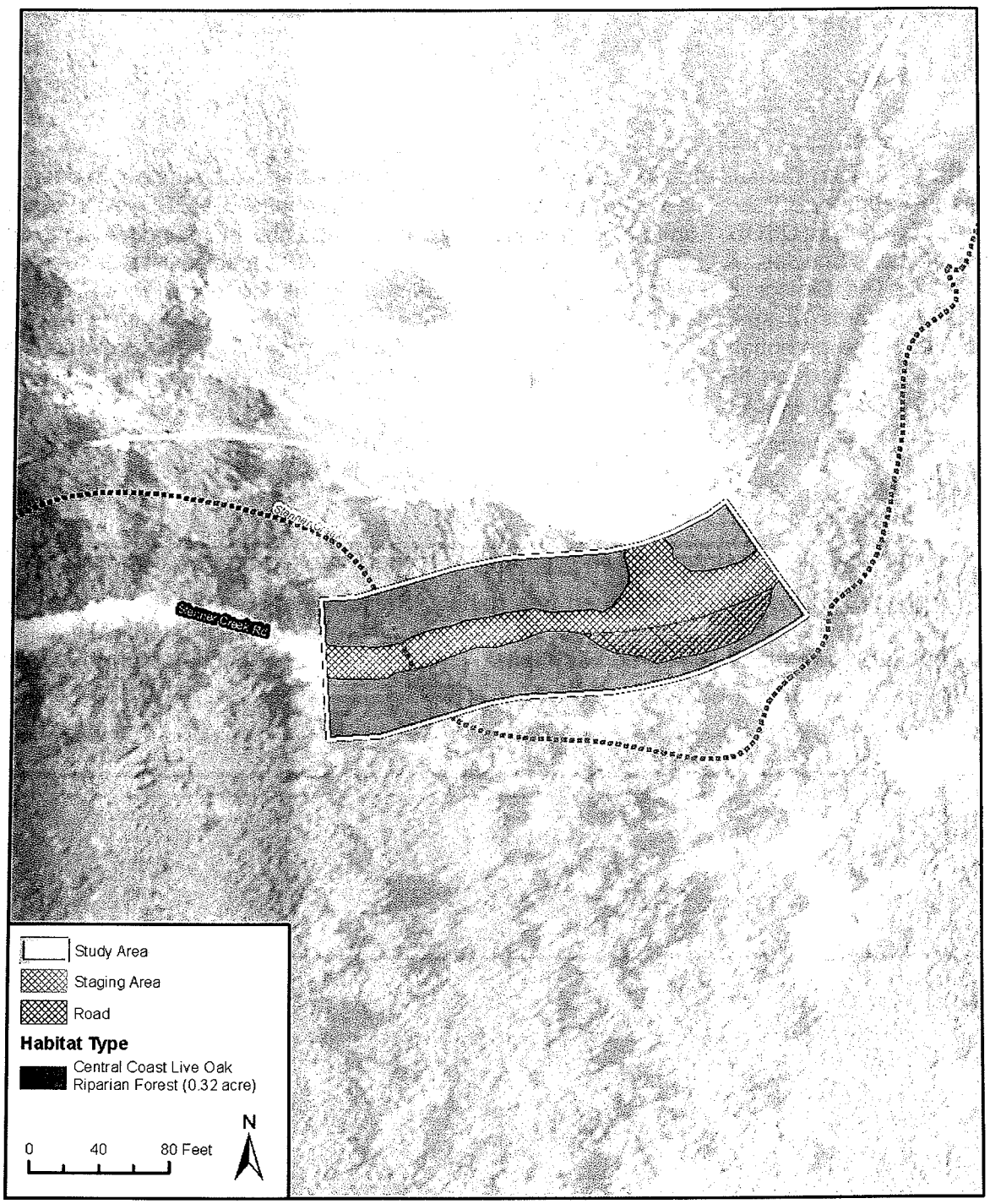
Setting. Rincon Consultants, Inc. staff performed a site reconnaissance survey to each of the bridge sites in February 2012. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) was searched for the *San Luis Obispo* USGS 7.5min Topographic Quadrangle and the surrounding eight quadrants for special status species. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) species list was received on March 8, 2011. The Biological Study Area (BSA) was defined by the County Right-of-Way. In addition, CNDDB records of special-status species within five miles of the project limits were studied. An analysis of the potential for special-status species within the project area is presented below. This analysis is based on the habitats and their condition on site, as well as the CNDDB query and USFWS provided species list.

Stenner Creek Bridge

On-site Vegetation: Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest. Figure 3a depicts the habitat types in the biological study area (BSA).

Name and distance from blue line creek(s): Stenner Creek, located within the creek bed.

Habitat(s): Foothill yellow-legged frog habitat, California red-legged frog critical habitat, Coast Range newt habitat, Steelhead south/central California coast DPS critical habitat, pallid bat habitat, Townsend's big-eared bat habitat, Western mastiff bat habitat, Morro Manzanita habitat,



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Habitat Study Area -
Stenner Creek Bridge (#49C0085)

Figure 3a

San Luis Obispo mariposa lily habitat, Cambria morning-glory habitat, Brewer's spineflower habitat, Chorro Creek bog thistle habitat, mouse-gray dudleya habitat, Palmer's monardella habitat, hooked popcorn-flower habitat, chaparral ragwort habitat, most beautiful jewel-flower habitat, and pacific pond turtle habitat.

A description of the regional species and habitats of concern is included in Table 1 of the Natural Environment Study prepared for the Stenner Creek Bridge site, which can be found in Appendix A.

Site's tree canopy coverage: Approximately 75%

Based on site reconnaissance performed by Rincon Consultants, Inc. staff, a CNDDB query, and USFWS provided species list, no federally listed, proposed, or candidate plant species were determined to have the potential to occur at the Stenner Creek Bridge, and no CRPR List 1B species were observed on site.

Of the federally and state listed or proposed animal species found with the CNDDB query, the following species were determined to have the potential to occur within the project limits during project implementation:

California red-legged frog *(Rana draytonii)*

California red-legged frog (CRLF) is listed as federally threatened, and considered a California Species of Special Concern by the CDFG. California red-legged frog *(Rana draytonii)* has been found 1.1 mile to the northwest of the bridge site, near the Chorro Reservoir. The CRLF is found in stagnant or slow moving water with depths greater than two feet and surrounded by dense shrubs, or emergent riparian vegetation, such as arroyo willow, cattails, and bulrushes. However, CRLF use a variety of habitat types, including various aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats. Additionally, at any time of the year, adult CRLF may move long distances from breeding sites. The majority of extant localities are isolated, fragmented remnants of larger historical populations and occur along the coast from Mendocino County to Baja California and throughout the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada foothills.

South/Central Coast Steelhead Trout *(Oncorhynchus mykiss)*

South/Central Coast Steelhead Trout is considered federally threatened and a California Species of Special Concern. Juvenile steelhead were observed during the reconnaissance site visit in a deep pool immediately downstream of the BSA. This species require cool, deep pools for holding through the summer, prior to spawning in the winter. Generally they are found in shallow areas, with cobble or boulder bottoms at the tails of pools. This species is threatened by water quality degradation (e.g., siltation, urban and agricultural pollutants), loss of riparian vegetation, and low instream flows resulting from water diversion, ground water pumping and periodic drought.

Pacific pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata)*

Pacific pond turtle is considered a California Species Special Concern. No pacific pond turtles were observed during the site visit. There is a recorded CNDDB occurrence approximately 0.25 miles downstream of the project site. The Pacific pond turtle is a highly aquatic species that requires permanent slow moving or stagnant water with basking sites, such as partially submerged logs, vegetation mats, or open mud banks. It lays its eggs in the banks of creeks and can nest up to one-half mile in adjacent uplands if suitable habitat exists. Hatchlings then migrate to the water where they require areas of shallow water with dense vegetation. This species inhabits streams and ponds throughout the western half of the state.

Pallid bats (*Antrozous pallidus*)

Pallid bats are considered a California Species of Special Concern. No bats were observed during the site visit. In addition, no evidence of bats, such as guano or culled insect parts, was

observed. Pallid bats are large bats and can be found in a variety of habitats including grasslands, shrublands, and woodlands, but are most common in open, dry habitats with rocky ledges for roosting. This is a resident species that occurs throughout the entire state.

Townsend's big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)

Townsend's big-eared bats are considered a California Species of Special Concern. No bats were observed during the site visit. In addition, no evidence of bats, such as guano or culled insect parts, was observed. The Townsend's big-eared bat is an uncommon resident found in all habitat types except for sub-alpine and alpine areas and requires caves, tunnels, mines, or other man-made structures for roosting. This bat feeds primarily on moths, but will eat a variety of soft-bodied insects. This species occurs throughout the state.

Western mastiff bats (*Eumops perotis californicus*)

Western mastiff bats are considered a California Species of Special Concern. No bats were observed during the site visit. In addition, no evidence of bats, such as guano or culled insect parts, was observed. The Western mastiff bat is an uncommon resident in southeastern San Joaquin Valley and Coast Ranges. This bat occurs in open, semi-arid to arid habitats including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, annual and perennial grassland, desert scrub, chaparral, palm oases, and urban habitats. This species roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees, and tunnels.

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge

On-site Vegetation: Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest and Ruderal. Figure 3b depicts the habitat types in the BSA.
Name and distance from blue line creek(s): Santa Margarita Creek, located within the creek bed.

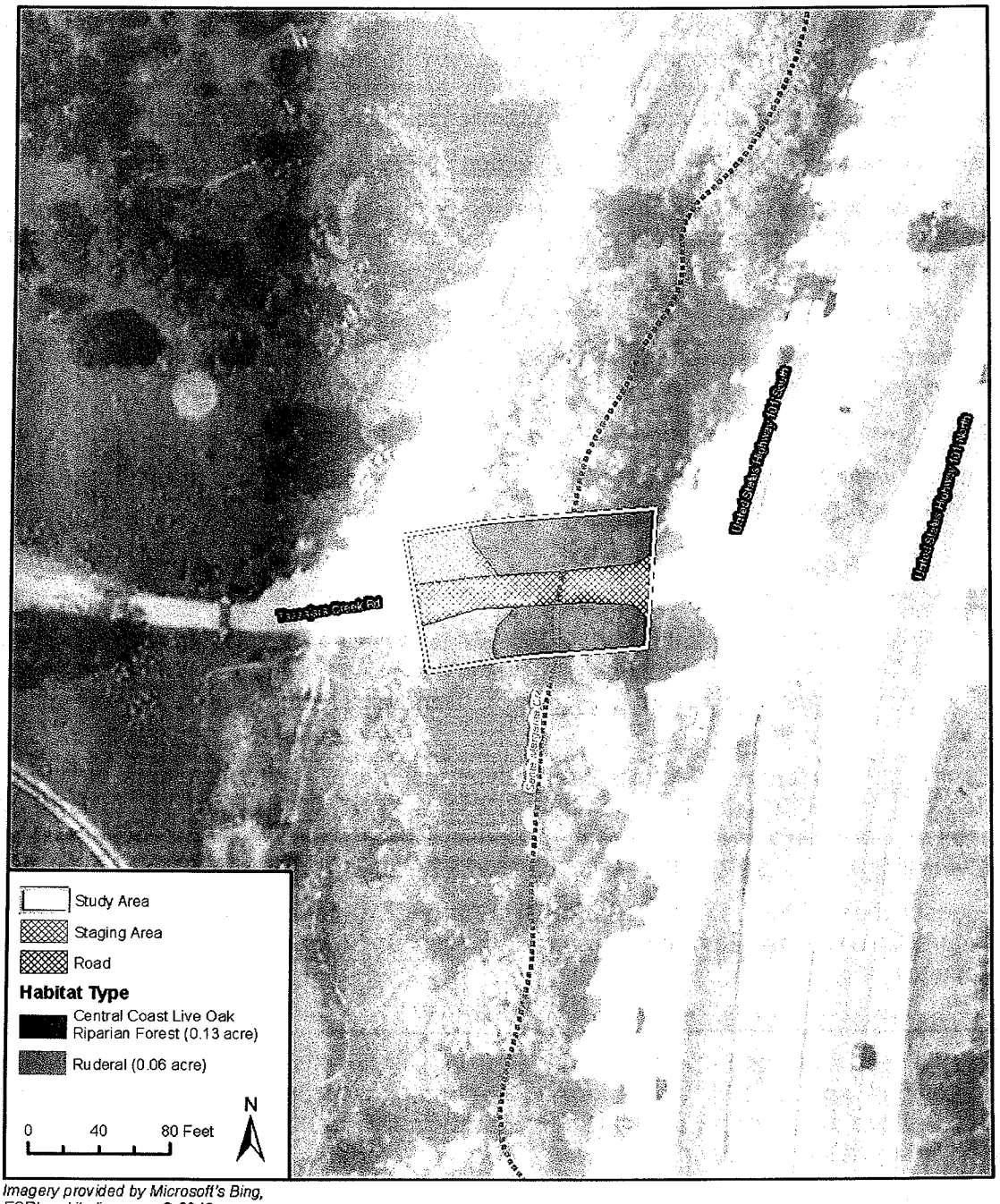
Habitat(s): Foothill yellow-legged frog habitat, California red-legged frog critical habitat, Coast Range newt habitat, Steelhead south/central California coast DPS critical habitat, pallid bat habitat, Townsend's big-eared bat habitat, Hoover's bent grass habitat, Santa Lucia manzanita habitat, Santa Margarita manzanita habitat, cambria morning-glory habitat, Hardham's evening-primrose habitat, Brewer's spineflower habitat, straight-awned spineflower habitat, Chorro Creek bog thistle habitat, mouse-gray dudleya habitat, mesa horkelia habitat, pale-yellow layia, Palmer's monardella habitat, hooked popcorn-flower habitat, chaparral ragwort habitat, and most beautiful jewel-flower habitat.

A description of the regional species and habitats of concern is included in Table 1 of the Natural Environment Study prepared for the Stenner Creek Bridge site, which can be found in Appendix A.

Site's tree canopy coverage: Approximately 50%

Based on site reconnaissance performed by Rincon Consultants, Inc. staff, a CNDDB query, and USFWS provided species list, no federally listed, proposed, or candidate plant species were determined to have the potential to occur at the Santa Margarita Creek Bridge, and no CRPR List 1B species were observed on site.

Of the federally and state listed or proposed animal species found with the CNDDB query, the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), pallid bats (*Antrozous pallidus)* and Townsend's big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus townsendii)* were determined to have the potential to occur within the project limits during project implementation. More detailed species descriptions are provided above, under *Stenner Creek Bridge*.



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Habitat Study Area -
Santa Margarita Creek Bridge (#49C0281)

Figure 3b

California red-legged frog *(Rana draytonii)*

The Santa Margarita Creek Bridge is located within the known range of CRLF. No CRLF were observed during the reconnaissance site survey; however, creek conditions were unsuitable for breeding as there were no deep pools or emergent vegetation present. The nearest recorded occurrence is approximately 1.3 miles to the northwest of the bridge.

South/Central Coast Steelhead Trout *(Oncorhynchus mykiss)*

The Santa Margarita Creek Bridge is located within the known range of steelhead. Steelhead were observed during the field review for completion of the Preliminary Environmental Study for this bridge.

Pallid bats (*Antrozous pallidus*)

No bats were observed during the site visit. In addition, no evidence of bats, such as guano or culled insect parts, was observed.

Townsend's big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)

No bats were observed during the site visit. In addition, no evidence of bats, such as guano or culled insect parts, was observed.

East Branch San Luis Obsipo Creek Bridge

On-site Vegetation: Central Coast Arroyo Willow Riparian Forest, Non-native grassland, and Ruderal. Figure 3c depicts the habitat types in the BSA.
Name and distance from blue line creek(s): San Luis Obsipo Creek, located within the creek bed.

Habitat(s): California red-legged frog habitat, pallid bat habitat, Western mastiff bat habitat, Hoover's bent grass habitat, Cambria morning-glory habitat, San Luis Obispo owl's-clover habitat, Congdon's tarplant habitat, pappose tarplant habitat, Pismo clarkia habitat, black-flowered figwort habitat, and Pacific pond turtle habitat.

A description of the regional species and habitats of concern is included in Table 1 of the Natural Environment Study prepared for the Stenner Creek Bridge site, which can be found in Appendix A.

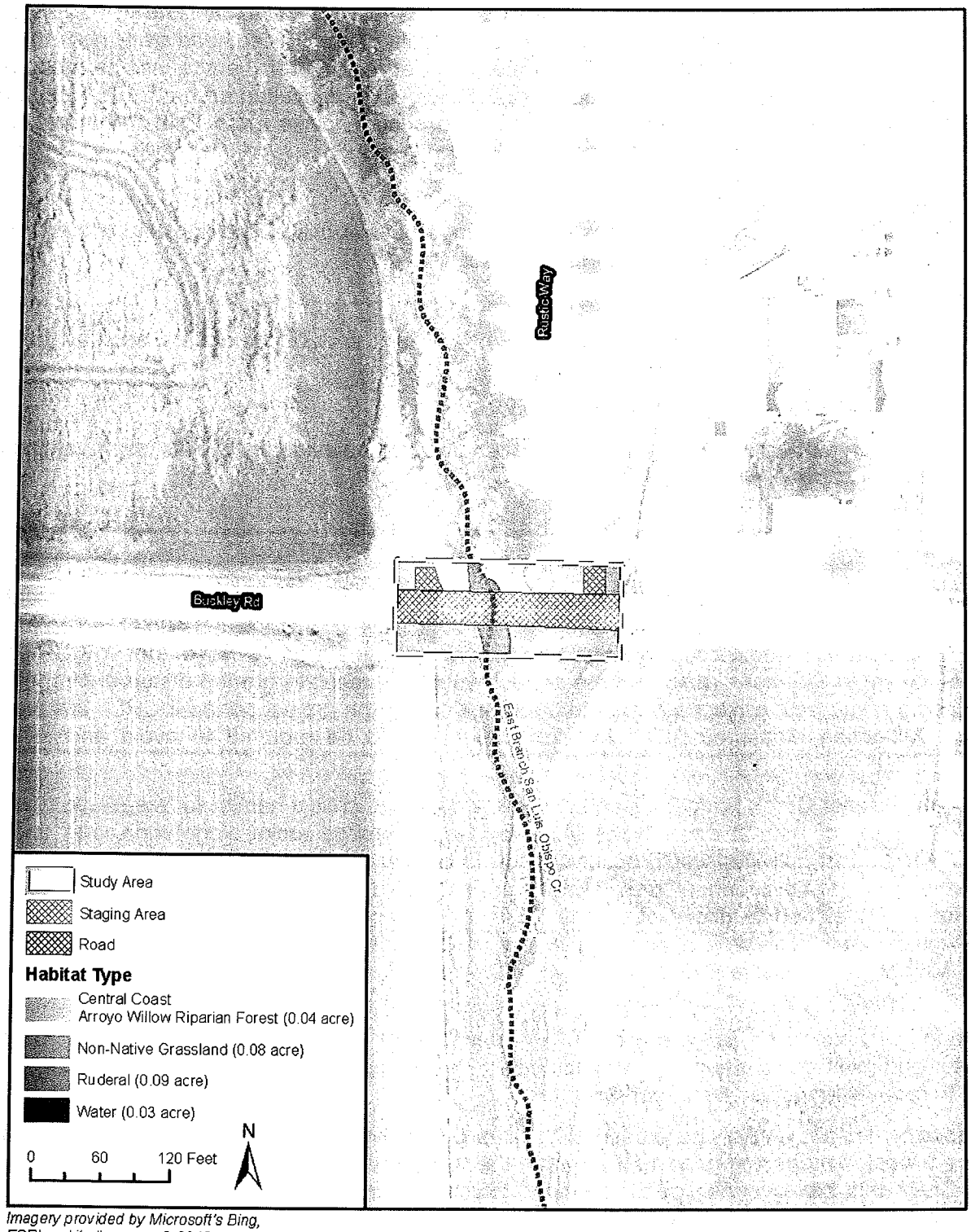
Site's tree canopy coverage: None.

Based on site reconnaissance performed by Rincon Consultants, Inc. staff, a CNDDB query, and USFWS provided species list, no federally listed, proposed, or candidate plant species were determined to have the potential to occur at the East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge, and no CRPR List 1B species were observed on site.

Of the federally and state listed or proposed animal species found with the CNDDB query, the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), the pacific pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*), Pallid bats (*Antrozous pallidus)*, and Western mastiff bats (*Eumops perotis californicus*) were determined to have the potential to occur within the project limits during project implementation. More detailed species descriptions are provided above, under *Stenner Creek Bridge*.

California red-legged frog *(Rana draytonii)*

The East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge is located within the known range of California red-legged frogs (CRLF), but not located within designated critical habitat for CRLF. The nearest recorded occurrence is approximately 1.4 miles to the northwest of the bridge and is near the main channel of San Luis Obispo Creek.



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Habitat Study Area -
East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge (#49C0106)

Figure 3c

South/Central Coast Steelhead Trout *(Oncorhynchus mykiss)*

The East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge is located within the known range of the steelhead, but is not designated critical habitat for steelhead. Steelhead were not observed during the site visit. Water observed in the creek at the time of the site visit as moderately deep, flowing slowly, and brown and murky, likely due to agricultural run-off. No deep pools were observed. The nearest CNDDB recorded occurrence is more than 1.4 miles to the northwest in the main channel of San Luis Obispo Creek.

Pacific pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata)*

No pacific pond turtles were observed during the site visit. The closest occurrence is approximately 1.3 miles upstream of the project site.

Pallid bats (*Antrozous pallidus*)

No bats were observed during the site visit. In addition, no evidence of bats, such as guano or culled insect parts, was observed.

Western mastiff bats (*Eumops perotis californicus*)

No bats were observed during the site visit. In addition, no evidence of bats, such as guano or culled insect parts, was observed.

Impact.

Stenner Creek Bridge

The BSA for Stenner Creek Bridge is located within designated critical habitat for CRLF and contains suitable non-breeding aquatic, dispersal, and upland habitat, but no suitable aquatic breeding habitat. While project activities would occur during the dry season (e.g. May 1 to November 1) when water levels are lowest in Stenner Creek, and the project would not result in ground disturbance, potential impacts could result from project activities in the creek during the project period if CRLF are present. Therefore, Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-21 would be required to avoid and minimize impacts to CRLF.

The BSA for Stenner Creek Bridge is located within designated critical habitat for steelhead trout and provides a variety of natural cover types including boulders/large rocks, vegetation, and undercut banks. While project activities would occur during the dry season (e.g. May 1 to November 1) when water levels are lowest in Stenner Creek, and the project would not result in ground disturbance, there is potential for steelhead to occur within the BSA during implementation of the project. Therefore, impacts could result from project activities in the creek during the project period if steelhead are present. Mitigation Measures BIO-1, -5, -7, -8, -10, -11, -13, -15 through -21 would be required to avoid and minimize impacts to steelhead.

No evidence of bats (such as guano or culled insect parts) was observed in the BSA. Bats are unlikely to, but could occur within the project limits. Therefore, Mitigation Measure BIO-23 would be required to reduce impacts to less than significant.

Pacific pond turtles are unlikely be present within the project limits during the dry season when water levels are lowest. Any pacific pond turtles within the vicinity would likely remain in other sections of Stenner Creek that have deeper, ponded water. However, there is a potential for Pacific pond turtles to be present and impacts could result from project activities in the creek during the project period. Therefore, Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-21 would be required to avoid and minimize impacts to Pacific pond turtles. With the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-21, impacts to Pacific pond turtles and their habitat would be less than significant.

Project activities may require minor pruning of trees near the bridge, but no trees would be removed. The extent, diversity, and quality of important vegetation would remain the same. Therefore, impacts to important vegetation would be less than significant.

Project activities would occur during the dry season (e.g., between May 1 and November 1) when water levels in the creek are lowest and would not include the construction of any new structures. The proposed project may require the temporary installation of scaffolding, but would not change the existing wetland and riparian habitat or create a barrier to fish or wildlife. Movement could occur around the scaffolding, and the scaffolding would be removed at the end of the project period. However, there remains a potential for nesting birds to occur within or adjacent to the project area. Therefore, Mitigation Measure BIO-22 would be required to reduce impacts to less than significant.

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge

The portion of Santa Margarita Creek that falls within the BSA does not include all of the Primary Constituent Elements (PCEs) for CRLF as defined by the USFWS *Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for the California red-legged frog* published on March 17, 2010. Specifically, this section of Santa Margarita Creek lacks suitable ponds or backwaters suitable for aquatic breeding habitat or suitable emergent vegetation growing near the water for non-breeding aquatic and riparian habitat. However, the BSA supports upland and dispersal habitat for CRLF. While project activities would occur during the dry season (e.g. May 1 to November 1) when water levels are lowest in the creek, and the project would not result in ground disturbance, potential impacts could result from project activities in the creek during the project period if CRLF are present. Therefore, Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-21 would be required to avoid and minimize impacts to CRLF.

The Santa Margarita Creek Bridge BSA is located within the known range of steelhead, and steelhead were observed during the field review for completion of the Preliminary Environmental Study for this bridge. Since water is present throughout the year in this creek, there is potential for steelhead to occur within the Santa Margarita Creek Bridge BSA during implementation of the project. Therefore, impacts to steelhead could result from project activities in the creek during the project period. Mitigation Measures BIO-1, -5, -7, -8, -10, -11, -13, -15 through -21 would be required to avoid and minimize impacts to steelhead.

No evidence of bats (such as guano or culled insect parts) was observed in the BSA. Bats are unlikely to, but could occur within the project limits. Therefore, Mitigation Measure BIO-23 would be required to reduce impacts to less than significant.

Project activities may require minor pruning of trees near the bridge, but no trees would be removed. The extent, diversity, and quality of important vegetation would remain the same. Therefore, impacts to important vegetation would be less than significant.

Project activities would occur during the dry season (e.g., between May 1 and November 1) when water levels in the creek are lowest and would not include the construction of any new structures. The proposed project may require the temporary installation of scaffolding, but would not change the existing wetland and riparian habitat or create a barrier to fish or wildlife. Movement could occur around the scaffolding, and the scaffolding would be removed at the end of the project period. However, there remains a potential for nesting birds to occur within or adjacent to the project area. Therefore, Mitigation Measure BIO-22 would be required to reduce impacts to less than significant.

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

The East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge is not located within critical habitat for CRLF, but it contains suitable non-breeding aquatic, dispersal, and upland habitat. While project activities would occur during the dry season (e.g., between May 1 and November 1) when water levels are lowest in the creek, and the project would not result in ground disturbance, potential impacts could result from project activities in the creek during the project period if CRLF are present. Therefore, Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-21 would be required to avoid and minimize impacts to CRLF.

The East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge BSA is located within the known range of the steelhead, but is not designated critical habitat. Steelhead were not observed during the site visit. While project activities would occur during the dry season (e.g. May 1 to November 1) when water levels are lowest in the creek, and the project would not result in ground disturbance, there is potential for steelhead to occur within the BSA during implementation of the project. Therefore, impacts could result from project activities in the creek during the project period if steelhead are present. Mitigation Measures BIO-1, -5, -7, -8, -10, -11, -13, -15 through -21 would be required to avoid and minimize impacts to steelhead.

No evidence of bats (such as guano or culled insect parts) was observed in the BSA. Bats are unlikely to, but could occur within the project limits. Therefore, Mitigation Measure BIO-23 would be required to reduce impacts to less than significant.

Project activities may require minor pruning of trees near the bridge, but no trees would be removed. The extent, diversity, and quality of important vegetation would remain the same. Therefore, impacts to important vegetation would be less than significant.

Project activities would occur during the dry season (e.g. May 1 to November 1) and would not include the construction of any new structures. The proposed project may require the temporary installation of scaffolding, but would not change the existing wetland and riparian habitat or create a barrier to fish or wildlife. Movement could occur around the scaffolding, and the scaffolding would be removed at the end of the project period. However, there remains a potential for nesting birds to occur within or adjacent to the project area. Therefore, Mitigation Measure BIO-22 would be required to reduce impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The following mitigation would be required to avoid and minimize impacts to California red-legged frogs, steelhead trout, Pacific pond turtle, nesting birds, and bats. With the inclusion of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-23, impacts to special status species would be less than significant.

BIO-1 On a daily basis, a qualified biologist(s) shall conduct a survey of the project site prior to the onset of work activities. If any life stage of the California red-legged frog, steelhead, or pond turtle are found and these individuals are likely to be killed or injured by work activities, the approved biologist shall be allowed sufficient time to move them from the site before work activities begin. Upon approval from the appropriate regulatory agency (USFWS, NMFS, or CDFG), the biologist(s) must relocate the individuals of these species the shortest distance possible to a location that contains suitable habitat not likely to be affected by activities associated with the proposed project. The biologist(s) shall maintain sufficiently detailed records of any individual of these species observed, captured, relocated, etc., including size, coloration, any distinguishing features and photographs (preferably digital) to assist him or her in determining whether translocated animals are returning to the original point of capture.

BIO-2 Only approved biologists will participate in activities associated with the capture, handling, and monitoring of California red-legged frogs and steelhead.

BIO-3 Ground disturbance will not begin until written approval is received from the USFWS (Service) that the biologist is qualified to conduct the work.

BIO-4 A Service-approved biologist will survey the project site no more than 48 hours before the onset of work activities. If any life stage of the California red-legged frog, steelhead, or pond turtle is found and these individuals are likely to be killed or injured by work activities, the approved biologist will be allowed sufficient time to move them from the site before work begins. The Service-approved biologist will relocate the individuals the shortest distance possible to a location that contains suitable habitat and that will not be affected by activities associated with

the proposed project. The relocation site should be in the same drainage to the extent practicable. The relocation site will be coordinated with the Service prior to the capture of any California red-legged frogs.

BIO-5 Before any activities begin on a project, a Service-approved biologist will conduct a training session for all construction personnel. At a minimum, the training will include a description of all applicable sensitive species and their habitats, the specific measures that are being implemented to conserve these species for the project, and the boundaries within which the project may be accomplished. Brochures, books, and briefings may be used in the training session, provided that a qualified person is on hand to answer any questions.

BIO-6 A Service-approved biologist will be present at the work site until all California red-legged frogs have been relocated out of harm's way, workers have been instructed, and disturbance of habitat has been completed. After this time, the County will designate a person to monitor on-site compliance with all minimization measures. The Service-approved biologist will ensure that this monitor receives the training outlined in measure BIO-5 above and in the identification of California red-legged frogs. If the monitor or the Service-approved biologist recommends that work be stopped because California red-legged frogs would be affected in a manner not anticipated by the Service during review of the proposed action, they will notify the resident engineer (the engineer that is directly overseeing and in command of construction activities) immediately. The resident engineer will either resolve the situation by eliminating the adverse effect immediately or require that all actions causing these effects be halted. If work is stopped, the Service will be notified as soon as possible.

BIO-7 During project activities, all trash that may attract predators will be properly contained, removed from the work site, and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris will be removed from work areas.

BIO-8 All refueling, maintenance, and staging of equipment and vehicles will occur at least 60 ft (18 m) from riparian habitat or water bodies and in a location from where a spill would not drain directly toward aquatic habitat (e.g., on a slope that drains away from the water). The contractor will ensure contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations. Prior to the onset of work, a plan must be in place for prompt and effective response to any accidental spills. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.

BIO-9 Habitat contours will be returned to their original configuration at the end of project activities. This measure will be implemented in all areas disturbed by activities associated with the project, unless the Service determines that it is not feasible or modification of original contours would benefit the California red-legged frog.

BIO-10 Work activities should be scheduled for times of the year when impacts to the California red-legged frog would be minimal. For example, work that would affect large pools that may support breeding would be avoided, to the maximum degree practicable, during the breeding season (November through May). Isolated pools that are important to maintain California red-legged frogs through the driest portions of the year would be avoided, to the maximum degree practicable, during the late summer and early fall. Habitat assessments, surveys, and coordination with the Service during project planning will be used to assist in scheduling work activities to avoid sensitive habitats during key times of the year.

BIO-11 To control sedimentation during and after project implementation, the County will

implement best management practices outlined in any authorizations or permits issued under the authorities of the Clean Water Act that it receives for the specific project. If best management practices are ineffective, the County will attempt to remedy the situation immediately, in coordination with the Service.

BIO-12 Unless approved by the Service, water will not be impounded in a manner that may attract California red-legged frogs.

BIO-13 A Service-approved biologist will permanently remove any individuals of non-native species, such as bullfrogs *(Lithobates catesbeiana),* signal and red swamp crayfish *(Pacifasticus leniusculus; Procambarus clarkii),* and centrarchid fishes from the project area, to the maximum extent possible. The Service-approved biologist will be responsible for ensuring his or her activities are in compliance with the California Fish and Game Code.

BIO-14 To ensure that diseases are not conveyed between work sites by the Service-approved biologist, the fieldwork code of practice developed by the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force will be followed at all times.

BIO-15 Project sites will be re-vegetated with an assemblage of native riparian, wetland, and upland vegetation suitable for the area. Locally collected plant materials will be used to the extent practicable. Invasive, exotic plants will be controlled to the maximum extent practicable. This measure will be implemented in all areas disturbed by activities associated with the project, unless the Service determines that it is not feasible or practical.

BIO-16 Project activities will occur during the dry season (e.g., between May 1 and November 1) when water levels in the creek are lowest.

BIO-17 No trees shall be removed as a result of project activities.

BIO-18 No equipment shall enter the creek other than hand-held tools.

BIO-19 No pets shall be allowed at the project site.

BIO-20 Prior to starting work, the Contractor shall submit a Debris Containment and Collection Program to the County. The program must identify materials, equipment, and methods to be used when the existing paint system is disturbed and must include working drawings of containment systems, loads applied to the bridge by containment structures, and provisions for ventilation and air movement for visibility and worker safety. The debris containment system will either be removed at the end of each work shift or designed to allow wildlife passage through the site over night. All debris produced when the structural steel members are cleaned shall be contained. The containment system shall contain all water, debris, and dust produced when the paint system is disturbed. Debris accumulated inside the containment system will be removed before the end of each work shift. Debris will be stored in leak proof containers. Debris produced from the existing paint system will be disposed of at a Class 1 disposal facility in conformance with applicable Federal, State, and local hazardous waste laws. Laws that govern this work include: 1) Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.5 (California Hazardous Waste Control Act); 2) Title 22; California Code of Regulations, Division 4.5, (Environmental Health Standards for the Management of Hazardous Waste); and 3) Title 8, California Code of Regulations. The debris must be hauled by a transporter currently registered with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control using correct manifesting procedures and vehicles displaying current certification of compliance.

BIO-21 The Contractor will monitor the ambient air and soil in and around the work area

to verify the effectiveness of the containment system. The air and soil will be sampled for the presence of lead and heavy metals.

BIO-22 Nesting Bird Surveys.

a) Because construction is likely to occur during the nesting season of cliff swallows (March 1 to July 31), the bridge shall be periodically inspected for the occurrence of swallow nests. Nests shall be knocked down prior to being one-third completed. Inspection of the bridge would need to start in late February.

b) As construction is likely to be scheduled to occur during the nesting season of February 1 to August 31, preconstruction surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine the presence of nesting birds in the project site. If active nests are found to be present, construction within 100 yards of the active nests shall be delayed until the qualified biologist determines that the young have fledged.

BIO-23 Bat Surveys

a) If bat species are identified as roosting in areas that will be impacted, prior to construction, the Contractor will prepare a plan to exclude bat species from impact areas. If bats cannot be excluded from bat roosts, work activities will be avoided within 100 ft of active maternity roosts until bats pups have been weaned and are deemed independent by a qualified biologist. Regulatory agencies will be contacted for additional guidance if roosting bats are observed within the BSA during construction.

b) Before any disturbance activities on this project, the biologist(s) shall conduct a training session for all construction personnel regarding listed species potentially encountered on site. At a minimum, the training should include a description of the species and their habitats, the specific measures implemented to conserve them for the current project, and the boundaries within which the project may be accomplished.

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES - *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Disturb pre-historic resources?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Disturb historic resources?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Disturb paleontological resources?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting.

Stenner Creek Bridge, Santa Margarita Creek Bridge, and East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

There are no structures besides the bridges located on the project sites. The project bridge sites are not identified on the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historic Places, or California State Landmarks list (County General Plan, May 2010).

Impact.

Stenner Creek Bridge, Santa Margarita Creek Bridge, and East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

The proposed project would not involve any digging or ground disturbance; therefore it is unlikely any cultural, historic, or paleontological resources would be disturbed. Impacts to historical or paleontological resources would be less than significant.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No mitigation measures would be necessary.

6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS - *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Result in exposure to or production of unstable earth conditions, such as landslides, earthquakes, liquefaction, ground failure, land subsidence or other similar hazards?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Be within a California Geological Survey "Alquist-Priolo" Earthquake Fault Zone"?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in soil erosion, topographic changes, loss of topsoil or unstable soil conditions from project-related improvements, such as vegetation removal, grading, excavation, or fill?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Change rates of soil absorption, or amount or direction of surface runoff?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Include structures located on expansive soils?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Change the drainage patterns where substantial on- or off-site sedimentation/ erosion or flooding may occur?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Involve activities within the 100-year flood zone?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h) *Be inconsistent with the goals and policies of the County's Safety Element relating to Geologic and Seismic Hazards?*	☐	☐	☒	☐
i) Preclude the future extraction of valuable mineral resources?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting

GEOLOGY - The following relates to the project's geologic aspects or conditions:

Stenner Creek Bridge

Topography: The topography in the Stenner Creek Bridge area is characterized by sloping hills and moderately sloped banks leading to the creek.

Within County's Geologic Study Area? Yes; Franciscan Assemblage - Melange

Landslide Risk Potential: High

Liquefaction Potential: Low

Nearby potentially active faults? Yes; Cambria Fault and Oceanic Fault. Distance? Cambria Fault: approximately one mile; Oceanic Fault: approximately three miles. (SLO County, 2009 and California Geological Survey, 2010.)

Area known to contain serpentine or ultramafic rock or soils? Yes

Shrink/Swell potential of soil: Moderate

Other notable geologic features? None

Within the 100-year Flood Hazard designation? No (SLO County, 2008)

Closest creek? Stenner Creek Distance? 0 feet – Project occurs within the creek bed.

Soil drainage characteristics: Well-drained

Soil Type: Soils in the Stenner Creek Bridge study area consist of Obispo-Rock outcrop complex and are characterized by 15-75% slopes and parent material of residuum weathered from serpentinite (NRCS, Web Soil Survey, 2012).

Soil erodibility: Low

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge

Topography: The topography in the Santa Margarita Bridge area is generally flat with gentle slopes and gradual stream banks.

Within County's Geologic Study Area? Yes; Atascadero Formation

Landslide Risk Potential: Low

Liquefaction Potential: High

Nearby potentially active faults? Yes; Cambria Fault, Oceanic Fault, Rinconada Fault

Distance? Cambria Fault: approximately three miles; Oceanic Fault: approximately two miles; Rinconada Fault: approximately four miles. (SLO County, 2009 and California Geological Survey, 2010.)

Area known to contain serpentine or ultramafic rock or soils? No

Shrink/Swell potential of soil: Low

Other notable geologic features? None

Within the 100-year Flood Hazard designation? No (SLO County, 2008)

Closest creek? Santa Margarita Creek Distance? 0 feet – Project occurs within the creek bed.

Soil drainage characteristics: Well-drained

Soil Type: Soils in the Santa Margarita Creek Bridge area consist of Shimmon-Dibble Association with 30 to 40 percent slopes, and parent material of residuum weathered from sandstone (NRCS, Web Soil Survey, 2012).

Soil erodibility: Low

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

Topography: The topography in the East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge area is generally flat with fairly steep banks leading to the creek.

Within County's Geologic Study Area? Yes; Franciscan Assemblage - Melange

Landslide Risk Potential: Low

Liquefaction Potential: High

Nearby potentially active faults? Yes; West Huasna/Suey Fault, Los Osos Fault.

Distance? West Huasna/Suey Fault: Approximately four miles; Los Osos Fault: Less than one mile. (SLO County, 2009 and California Geological Survey, 2010.)

Area known to contain serpentine or ultramafic rock or soils? No

Shrink/Swell potential of soil: High

Other notable geologic features? None

Within the 100-year Flood Hazard designation? Yes (SLO County, 2008)

Closest creek? East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Distance? 0 feet – Project occurs within the creek bed.

Soil drainage characteristics: Moderately well-drained

Soil Type: Soil in the East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge area consists of Cropley clay with 0 to 2 percent slopes and parent material of alluvium derived from sedimentary rock (NRCS, Web Soil Survey, 2012).

Soil erodibility: Moderate

Impact.

Stenner Creek Bridge, Santa Margarita Creek Bridge, and East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

The proposed project consists of cleaning and re-painting of existing bridge facilities and would not require any ground disturbance or building construction. Therefore impacts related to geology and soils would be less than significant.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No mitigation would be necessary.

7. HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - ***Will the project:***	**Potentially Significant**	**Impact can & will be mitigated**	**Insignificant Impact**	**Not Applicable**
a) Result in a risk of explosion or release of hazardous substances (e.g. oil, pesticides, chemicals, radiation) or exposure of people to hazardous substances?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Interfere with an emergency response or evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Expose people to safety risk associated with airport flight pattern?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Increase fire hazard risk or expose people or structures to high fire hazard conditions?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Create any other health hazard or potential hazard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting.

Stenner Creek Bridge

The Stenner Creek Bridge site is located in a "high" Fire Hazard Severity Zone (SLO County, 2007) and is within a 5-10 minute response time (SLO County) for the SLO County Fire Department (FD) or California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). Stenner Creek Bridge is not in a dam inundation zone (SLO County, 2009) or a 100-year flood hazard zone (SLO County, 2008). The Stenner Creek Bridge site is not located in an airport safety zone.

In addition, an Initial Site Assessment (ISA) was performed by Rincon Consultants, Inc. in February 2012 for the Stenner Creek Bridge site. The ISA determined that the bridge site and adjacent properties were not listed in the Environmental Data Resources Inc. (EDR) database as having the potential for soil or groundwater contamination. An elevated level of lead was found in one sample of paint on-site, indicating 6,100 parts per million (ppm). According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Public Health, a material is considered a lead based paint when it exceeds 0.5% or 5,000 ppm. In addition, if a material exceeds 0.5% or 5,000 ppm and also appears to be weathered or damaged, the lead based paint would be considered a lead hazard. No weathered or damaged paint was observed on-site. Therefore, the paint on-site would not be considered a lead hazard.

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge

The Santa Margarita Creek Bridge site is located in a "high" Fire Hazard Severity Zone (SLO County, 2007) and is within a 15 minute response time for the SLO County FD or CDF. Santa Margarita Creek Bridge is not in a dam inundation zone (SLO County, 2009) or a 100-year flood hazard zone (SLO County, 2008). The Santa Margarita Bridge site is not located in an airport safety zone.

In addition, an Initial Site Assessment (ISA) was performed by Rincon Consultants, Inc. in February 2012 for the Santa Margarita Creek Bridge site. The ISA determined that the bridge site and adjacent properties were not listed in the Environmental Data Resources Inc. (EDR) database as having the potential for soil or groundwater contamination. Lead sampling also determined that the paint sampled was not considered lead-based paint. No weathered or damaged paint was observed on-site. The ISA also concluded that, because the bridge site is located adjacent to Highway 101, there is the potential for aerial deposited lead to be present within the soils on-site.

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

The East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge site is located in a "moderate" Fire Hazard Severity Zone (SLO County, 2007) and is within a 5 minute response time for the SLO County FD or CDF. East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge is not in a dam inundation zone (SLO County, 2009), but does fall in the 100-year flood hazard zone (SLO County, 2008). In addition, the East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge is located approximately 2,300 feet from the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport and falls into the Safety Area S-1a, which is defined as "areas with frequent or low-visibility aircraft operations at less than 500 feet above ground level which are located within 250 feet of extended runway centerlines and within 3000 feet of a runway end" (Airport Land Use Commission, 2005).

An Initial Site Assessment (ISA) was also performed by Rincon Consultants, Inc. in February 2012 for the East Branch San Luis Obsipo Creek Bridge site. The ISA determined that the bridge site and adjacent properties were not listed in the EDR database as having the potential for soil or groundwater contamination. EDR listings for sites within one mile of the bridge site included the San Luis Obispo Department of Agriculture, located between 0.5 – 1 mile east of the project site. An elevated level of lead was found in one sample of paint on-site, indicating 250,000 ppm. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Public Health, a material is considered a lead based paint when it exceeds 0.5% or 5,000 ppm. In addition, if a material exceeds 0.5% or 5,000 ppm and also appears to be weathered or damaged, the lead based

paint would be considered a lead hazard. No weathered or damaged paint was observed on-site. Therefore, the paint on-site would not be considered a lead hazard.

Impact.

Stenner Creek Bridge

The proposed project is not located within the vicinity of an airport; therefore impacts to safety risks associated with flight patterns would not be applicable to this bridge site.

Project activities would not build or modify any structures that would be inhabited by people and the existing use of the bridge would remain the same. Therefore, the proposed project would not increase the risk of fire or the exposure of people to fire hazard conditions. Impacts to fire risk would be less than significant.

The presence of elevated levels of lead in a paint sample taken on-site could create a health hazard. However, the presence of weathered or damaged paint must also be present for a paint to be considered a lead hazard. No weathered or damaged paint was observed on-site. Furthermore, a containment system will be in place to collect all water, debris, and dust produced during cleaning and painting operations. Debris accumulated inside the containment system will be removed before the end of each work shift and stored in leak-proof containers. Debris will be disposed of at a Class I disposal facility in conformance with applicable Federal, State, and Local hazardous waste laws. Therefore, impacts to other health hazards would be less than significant.

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge

The proposed project is not located within the vicinity of an airport; therefore impacts to safety risks associated with flight patterns would not be applicable to this bridge site.

Project activities would not build or modify any structures that would be inhabited by people and the existing use of the bridge would remain the same. Therefore, the proposed project would not increase the risk of fire or the exposure of people to fire hazard conditions. Impacts to fire risk would be less than significant.

Samples of paint on the project site indicated that there is no lead-based paint present on the project site. Proximity of the site to Highway 101 creates the potential for aerial deposited lead to be present within the soils on-site. However, the proposed project would not disturb any soil on-site. Therefore, impacts to other health hazards would be less than significant.

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

The project is located within an Airport Safety Zone. However, the proposed project would not build or modify any structures that would be inhabited by people and the existing use of the bridge would remain the same. Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people to a safety risk associated with airport flight patterns. Impacts would be less than significant.

Project activities would not build or modify any structures that would be inhabited by people and the existing use of the bridge would remain the same. Therefore, the proposed project would not increase the risk of fire or the exposure of people to fire hazard conditions. Impacts to fire risk would be less than significant.

The presence of elevated levels of lead in a paint sample taken on-site could create a health hazard. However, the presence of weathered or damaged paint must also be present for a paint to be considered a lead hazard. No weathered or damaged paint was observed on-site. Furthermore, a containment system will be in place to collect all water, debris, and dust produced during cleaning and painting operations. Debris accumulated inside the containment system will be removed before the end of each work shift and stored in leak-proof containers. Debris will be disposed of at a Class I disposal facility in conformance with applicable Federal, State, and Local hazardous waste laws.

Mitigation/Conclusion. In addition to BIO-20 and BIO-21, the following measures will mitigate

impacts to Hazards and Hazardous Materials to a less than significant impact.

HAZ-1 Prior to the onset of project activities, the Contractor will prepare a Lead Compliance Plan and submit it to the County for review and approval.

HAZ-2 A copy of the ISA prepared for the project site must be given to the Contractor conducting work which will disturb painted surfaces at the Parkhill Road Bridge so that he/she is notified of the lead content and the condition of the lead containing surfaces prior to demolition, renovation, or any activity which would disturb the material.

HAZ-3 All work should be conducted in compliance with the CAL-OSHA and EPA regulations.

8. NOISE - ***Will the project:***	**Potentially Significant**	**Impact can & will be mitigated**	**Insignificant Impact**	**Not Applicable**
a) Expose people to noise levels that exceed the County Noise Element thresholds?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Generate increases in the ambient noise levels for adjoining areas?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Expose people to severe noise or vibration?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting.

County Noise Element thresholds are determined using the average sound level during a 24-hour day, or L_{DN}. The L_{DN} is expressed in terms of A-weighted decibels (dB), which de-emphasizes the very low and very high frequencies of sound in a manner similar to the human ear. The County threshold for exterior noise exposure is 60 dB near the following land uses: Residential, Public Assembly & Entertainment, Bed and Breakfast Facilities, Hotels, Motels, Schools, Libraries and Museums, Hospitals, Nursing and Personal Care, Meeting Halls, Churches, and Offices. The threshold for Outdoor Sports and Recreation land uses is 70 dB.

Stenner Creek Bridge

Stenner Creek Bridge is located in a rural area of unincorporated San Luis Obispo County. There are no residences located in the vicinity of the bridge and surrounding land uses are primarily agricultural and open space. Intermittent roadway noise is the primary source of noise in the project area.

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge is located in a rural area of unincorporated San Luis Obispo County. The closest residence is located over 1,300 feet from the bridge and surrounding land uses are primarily agricultural and recreational. The bridge is located adjacent to Highway 101, which is a principal arterial in the county and is the primary source of noise in the project area.

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge is located in a rural area of unincorporated San Luis Obispo County. There are four residences located within 1,000 feet of the bridge site. The closest residence is located approximately 420 feet from the bridge site, and additional residences are located at approximately 480 feet, 570 feet, and 750 feet. All of the nearby residences are located on agricultural parcels and are in agricultural use. The bridge site is located approximately 2,300 feet

from the San Luis Obispo County Airport runway. Intermittent airport and roadway noise are the primary sources of noise in the vicinity of the bridge. Agricultural operations also contribute to ambient noise near the bridge site.

Impact.

Stenner Creek Bridge

Project activities would generate a temporary noise level increase in the vicinity of the project through the use of hand-held equipment such as a sand blaster and pressure washer. However, there would be no ground disturbance that would generate vibrations, there are no sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the bridge site, and the increase in noise would be temporary. Therefore, impacts to noise levels in exceedance of County thresholds or exposure of people to severe noise or vibration would be less than significant.

The existing use and operation of the bridge site would remain unchanged. Therefore, there would be no permanent increase in ambient noise for adjoining areas. There would be no impacts.

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge

Project activities would generate a temporary noise level increase in the vicinity of the project through the use of hand-held equipment, such as a sand blaster and pressure washer. Sound levels typically attenuate from a point source at approximately 6 dB for each doubling of distance. The sand blaster and pressure washer would generate noise from air compression, which would generate noise levels of approximately 80-81 dB at a distance of 50 feet (U.S. Dept. of Transportation, 2012). Based on the attenuation rate, noise generated by the sand blaster or pressure washer would be reduced to 60 dB at 570 feet. Therefore, noise generated from hand-held equipment would be below the County threshold of 60 dB at the residence located 1,300 feet away. The Santa Margarita Creek Bridge site also has a high ambient noise level because it is directly adjacent to Highway 101. Noise generated by the proposed project would not generate excessive noise with respect to the ambient noise environment. Furthermore, noise generated by the proposed project would be intermittent and temporary. Therefore, impacts to noise levels in exceedance of County thresholds or exposure of people to severe noise or vibration would be less than significant.

The existing use and operation of the bridge site would remain unchanged. Therefore, there would be no permanent increase in ambient noise for adjoining areas. There would be no impacts.

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

Project activities would generate a temporary noise level increase in the vicinity of the project through the use of hand-held equipment, such as a sand blaster and pressure washer. Sound levels typically attenuate from a point source at approximately 6 dB for each doubling of distance. The sand blaster and pressure washer would generate noise from air compression, which typically generates noise levels of approximately 80-81 dB (U.S. Dept. of Transportation, 2012). Based on the attenuation rate, noise generated by the sand blaster or pressure washer would be reduced to 60 dB at 570 feet. Therefore, two residences would experience intermittent noise levels of approximately 63 dB during the project activities, which is above the 60 dB County threshold. However, this bridge is located adjacent to active agricultural operations and is within 2,300 feet of the airport runway. Maximum noise levels generated by farm-related tractors typically range from 77 to 85 dB at a distance of 50 feet from the tractor, depending on the horsepower of the tractor and the operating conditions. Therefore, the intermittent noise generated by project activities would be consistent with the ambient noise environment of agricultural operations and airport noise. Impacts would be less than significant. The existing use and operation of the bridge site would remain unchanged. Therefore, there would be no permanent increase in ambient noise for adjoining areas. There would be no impacts.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No mitigation measures are necessary.

9. POPULATION/HOUSING - *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g., through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace existing housing or people, requiring construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Create the need for substantial new housing in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Use substantial amount of fuel or energy?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting.

Stenner Creek Bridge

Stenner Creek Bridge is located in a rural area of unincorporated San Luis Obispo County. There are no residences located in the vicinity of the bridge and surrounding land uses are primarily agricultural and open space.

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge is located in a rural area of unincorporated San Luis Obispo County. The closest residence is located over 1,300 feet from the bridge and surrounding land uses are primarily agricultural and recreational.

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge is located in a rural area of unincorporated San Luis Obispo County. There are two residences located within 500 feet of the bridge site, and two more located within 1,000 feet. All of the nearby residences are located on agricultural parcels and are in agricultural use.

Impact.

Stenner Creek Bridge, Santa Margarita Creek Bridge, and East Branch San Luis Obispo Bridge

The proposed project would not affect population or housing because no housing units would be constructed. The proposed project would consist of cleaning and re-painting the existing bridge facilities. The proposed project would not result in the demand for any new housing, would not displace existing any housing, or result in population growth. Energy and fuel consumption would not change, as the operation of the proposed project would remain the same. Impacts to population and housing are not applicable to the proposed project.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No mitigation measures would be necessary.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/UTILITIES - *Will the project have an effect upon, or result in the need for new or altered public services in any of the following areas:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Police protection (e.g., Sheriff, CHP)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Roads?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Solid Wastes?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The proposed project bridge sites are served by the following public services/facilities:

The Stenner Creek Bridge

Police: County Sheriff's Department — Location: Approximately 3 miles west, in San Luis Obispo (SLO County Sheriff, 2012)

Fire: SLO County Fire — Hazard Severity: High — Response Time: 5-10 minutes

Location: Approximately 2 miles south, in San Luis Obispo (CAL FIRE SLO, 2012)

School District: Not Applicable

The Santa Margarita Creek Bridge

Police: County Sheriff's Department — Location: Approximately 6 miles west, in San Luis Obispo (SLO County Sheriff, 2012)

Fire: SLO County Fire — Hazard Severity: High — Response Time: 15 minutes

Location: Approximately 6 miles to the east, in Santa Margarita (CAL FIRE SLO, 2012)

School District: Not Applicable

The East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

Police: County Sheriff's Department — Location: Approximately 7 miles north, in San Luis Obispo (SLO County Sheriff, 2012)

Fire: SLO County Fire — Hazard Severity: Moderate — Response Time: 5 minutes

Location: Approximately one mile east, in San Luis Obispo (CAL FIRE SLO, 2012)

School District: Not Applicable

Impact.

Stenner Creek Bridge, Margarita Creek Bridge, and East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

The proposed project would have no effect on police, fire, schools, roads, or other public services and would not result in the need for new services or facilities as no new structures would be built, access via the bridges would not be impaired, and there would be no increase in population or traffic. Operational use of the bridge sites would remain the same. Impacts to police, fire, schools, roads, or

other public services are not applicable to the proposed project.

The proposed project would generate a small amount of solid waste from the cleaning and paint-removal activities. However, the debris would be recovered through a containment system, stored in leak-proof containers, and would be disposed of at a Class I disposal facility in conformance with applicable Federal, State, and local hazardous waste laws. Impacts to solid waste services would be less than significant.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No mitigation measures would be necessary.

11. RECREATION - ***Will the project:***	**Potentially Significant**	**Impact can & will be mitigated**	**Insignificant Impact**	**Not Applicable**
a) Increase the use or demand for parks or other recreation opportunities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Affect the access to trails, parks or other recreation opportunities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Other	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting.

Stenner Creek Bridge

Stenner Creek Bridge is located in rural San Luis Obispo County and is adjacent to a cattle ranch and open space. Stenner Creek Road is commonly used as a bicycle trail route in the West Cuesta Ridge recreational area, which includes lands owned by the Los Padres National Forest, the City of San Luis Obispo, the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo, and California Polytechnic State University.

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge is located in rural San Luis Obispo County and is adjacent to a cattle ranch and the West Cuesta Ridge recreational area.

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge is located in rural San Luis Obispo County and is adjacent to grazed grasslands and row crop agriculture. There are no recreational areas in proximity to the bridge site.

Impact.

Stenner Creek Bridge,

The proposed project would not increase population, as the existing use of the bridge sites would remain the same. Therefore, there would be no new demand for recreational activities. Impacts to recreational use or demand are not applicable to the proposed project.

Project activities may require portions of the roadway to be blocked off periodically, but through traffic would be permitted at all times. In addition, the proposed project activities would be temporary, lasting 15 days. Impacts to trail access would be less than significant.

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge, and East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

The proposed project would not increase population, as the existing use of the bridge sites would remain the same. Therefore, there would be no new demand for recreational activities, and there

would be no change to the accessibility of existing recreational areas. Impacts to recreation are not applicable to the proposed project.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No mitigation measures would be necessary.

12. TRANSPORTATION/ CIRCULATION - *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Increase vehicle trips to local or areawide circulation system?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Reduce existing "Levels of Service" on public roadway(s)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Create unsafe conditions on public roadways (e.g., limited access, design features, sight distance, slow vehicles)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Provide for adequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Result in inadequate internal traffic circulation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., pedestrian access, bus turnouts, bicycle racks, etc.)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Result in a change in air traffic patterns that may result in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting.

Stenner Creek Bridge

Stenner Creek Bridge is located on Stenner Creek Road, which is a local road in unincorporated San Luis Obispo County. The closest main road is Cabrillo Highway, or Highway 1, which is an arterial within the County. Cabrillo Highway is approximately one mile southwest of the bridge site. The County has established the acceptable Level of Service (LOS) on roads for this rural area as "C" or better. LOS C is defined as stable and acceptable flow of traffic, but with speed and maneuverability somewhat restricted due to higher volumes.

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge is located on Tassajara Creek Road, which is a local road in unincorporated San Luis Obispo County. The bridge is located adjacent to Highway 101, which is a

principal arterial within the county. North- and southbound travelers along Highway 101 can access the bridge directly from the highway at Tassajara Road, which is an unsignalized intersection. The County has established the acceptable Level of Service (LOS) on roads for this rural area as "C" or better. LOS C is defined as stable and acceptable flow of traffic, but with speed and maneuverability somewhat restricted due to higher volumes.

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

The East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge is located on Buckley Road in Edna Valley, which is in unincorporated San Luis Obispo County, just south of the City of San Luis Obispo. Buckley Road is a County-designated collector street, and the bridge is located approximately 1.7 miles east of State Route 227, which is designated as an arterial. The County has established the acceptable Level of Service (LOS) on roads for this rural area as "C" or better. LOS C is defined as stable and acceptable flow of traffic, but with speed and maneuverability somewhat restricted due to higher volumes.

Impact.

Stenner Creek Bridge, Santa Margarita Creek Bridge, and East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

Project activities would result in a minor, temporary increase in roadway traffic at the bridge sites due to worker trips. Worker trips would include less than five trips per day, over a period of 15-20 days, which would not affect any of the roadway capacities or levels of service. Off-street parking has been designated at each bridge site for worker vehicles to avoid disruption of roadway operations during project activities. Project activities may require portions of the roadway to be blocked off periodically, but through traffic would be permitted at all times; therefore adequate emergency access would be provided. Furthermore, the proposed project activities would be temporary, lasting 15 to 20 days. Temporary traffic impacts during cleaning and re-painting activities would be less than significant.

Operation of the existing bridge sites would not change; therefore, there would be no long-term impact to roadway operations, parking, internal circulation, or air traffic, and operational use would be consistent with the existing County Land Use Plan and related policies.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No mitigation measures would be necessary.

13. WASTEWATER - ***Will the project:***	**Potentially Significant**	**Impact can & will be mitigated**	**Insignificant Impact**	**Not Applicable**
a) Violate waste discharge requirements or Central Coast Basin Plan criteria for wastewater systems?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Change the quality of surface or ground water (e.g., nitrogen-loading, day-lighting)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Adversely affect community wastewater service provider?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting.

Stenner Creek Bridge, Santa Margarita Creek Bridge, East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

All three creek systems are within the jurisdiction of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and are regulated by the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coast Basin.

Impact.

Stenner Creek Bridge, Santa Margarita Creek Bridge, East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

No wastewater systems would be required for the proposed project. Cleaning and re-painting activities could affect surface water quality of the creeks if debris were to fall into the water or creek beds. However, a containment system would be in place to collect all water, debris, and dust produced during cleaning and painting operations. The containment system would remain in place for the duration of the project. Containment would be accomplished with either: 1) a ventilated containment structure; or 2) a vacuum shrouded surface preparation equipment and drapes or tarps; or 3) an equivalent containment system. Debris accumulated inside the containment system would be removed before the end of each work shift and stored in leak-proof containers. Debris would be disposed of at a Class I disposal facility in conformance with applicable Federal, State, and local hazardous waste laws. Furthermore, work would occur during the dry season when no water, or the least amount of water, is present in each creek. Correspondence with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (August, 2011) also confirmed that a Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit would not be required. Therefore, impacts to wastewater discharges and surface water quality would be less than significant.

Because no wastewater systems would be required, there would be no impact to wastewater service providers.

Mitigation. No mitigation measures would be necessary.

14. WATER - ***Will the project:***	**Potentially Significant**	**Impact can & will be mitigated**	**Insignificant Impact**	**Not Applicable**
a) Violate any water quality standards?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Discharge into surface waters or otherwise alter surface water quality (e.g., turbidity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, etc.)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Change the quality of groundwater (e.g., saltwater intrusion, nitrogen-loading, etc.)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Change the quantity or movement of available surface or ground water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Adversely affect community water service provider?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting.

Stenner Creek Bridge

Stenner Creek Bridge is located above Stenner Creek, within the Stenner Creek watershed. Stenner Creek is in the County's San Luis Obispo/Avila Beach Water Planning Area.

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge is located above Santa Margarita Creek, within the Santa Margarita

Creek watershed. Santa Margarita Creek is in the County's Salinas Water Planning Area.

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge is located above San Luis Obispo Creek, within the San Luis Obispo Creek watershed. San Luis Obispo Creek is in the County's San Luis Obispo/Avila Beach Water Planning Area.

Impact.

Stenner Creek Bridge, Santa Margarita Creek Bridge, East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

The proposed project would require a minimal amount of water for cleaning activities. The water would be transported to each bridge site. Cleaning and re-painting activities could affect surface water quality of the creeks if debris were to fall into the water or creek beds. However, a containment system would be in place to collect all water, debris, and dust produced during cleaning and painting operations. The containment system would remain in place for the duration of the project. Containment would be accomplished with either: 1) a ventilated containment structure; or 2) a vacuum shrouded surface preparation equipment and drapes or tarps; or 3) an equivalent containment system. Debris accumulated inside the containment system would be removed before the end of each work shift and stored in leak-proof containers. Debris would be disposed of at a Class I disposal facility in conformance with applicable Federal, State, and local hazardous waste laws. Work would occur during the dry season when no water, or the least amount of water, is present in each creek. Furthermore, no Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan would be required as no ground disturbance would occur. Therefore, impacts to water quality, discharge into surface water, and the movement of surface water would be less than significant.

The proposed project would not build any new structures or result in a change of use; therefore, no connection to the local water supply system would be required. There would be no impact to water supply service providers.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No mitigation measures would be necessary.

15. LAND USE - ***Will the project:***	**Inconsistent**	**Potentially Inconsistent**	**Consistent**	**Not Applicable**
a) Be potentially inconsistent with land use, policy/regulation (e.g., general plan [county land use element and ordinance], local coastal plan, specific plan, Clean Air Plan, etc.) adopted to avoid or mitigate for environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Be potentially inconsistent with any habitat or community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Be potentially inconsistent with adopted agency environmental plans or policies with jurisdiction over the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be potentially incompatible with surrounding land uses?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting

Stenner Creek Bridge

Stenner Creek Bridge is located in the County right-of-way along Stenner Creek Road in the San Luis Obispo Planning Area. Surrounding land uses include cattle ranches and open space. Adjacent land use designations are all categorized as Agriculture.

Santa Margarita Creek Bridge

The Santa Margarita Creek Bridge is located in the County right-of-way along Tassajara Creek Road in the Salinas River Planning Area. Land uses in the surrounding region include a mixture of private and public lands used primarily for cattle grazing and recreation. Adjacent land use designations include Agriculture and Multi-Use.

East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

The East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge is located in the County right-of-way along Buckley Road in the San Luis Obispo Planning Area. Land uses in the surrounding region include grazed grasslands and row crop agriculture. Adjacent land use designations are all categorized as Agriculture.

Impact.

Stenner Creek Bridge, Santa Margarita Creek Bridge, and East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge

The proposed project would not require a change in the existing land use or affect the land use of any adjacent properties. The bridge sites are not located within a Habitat Conservation Plan area or a Local Coastal Plan area. Because the existing land use for each bridge site would remain the same, the proposed project would be consistent with the County Land Use Ordinance and Land Use Plan policies, and would be compatible with the surrounding land uses. Project impacts to land use would be less than significant.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No mitigation measures would be necessary.

16. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE - *Will the project:*

Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable

a) Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

As discussed under Section 4. Biological Resources, the proposed project would not have the potential to substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species or cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels. However, within the biological study area of the proposed project bridge sites, the following special status species have the potential to occur: the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and Pacific pond turtle *(Actinemys marmorata)*.With the incorporation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-23, impacts to special status species and their habitats would be less than significant. The proposed project would have no impact on important examples of California history or prehistory.

b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects) ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The proposed project would not prompt additional work or future projects. The incremental effects of the proposed project would not be cumulatively considerable.

c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The proposed project would not result in direct or indirect impacts to human beings.

For further information on CEQA or the county's environmental review process, please visit the County's web site at "www.sloplanning.org" under "Environmental Information", or the California Environmental Resources Evaluation System at: http://www.ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines for information about the California Environmental Quality Act.

Exhibit A - Initial Study References and Agency Contacts

The County Planning or Environmental Divisions have contacted various agencies for their comments on the proposed project. With respect to the subject application, the following have been contacted (marked with an ☒) and when a response was made, it is either attached or in the application file:

Contacted	Agency	Response
☐	County Public Works Department	**Not Applicable**
☐	County Environmental Health Division	**Not Applicable**
☐	County Agricultural Commissioner's Office	**Not Applicable**
☐	County Airport Manager	**Not Applicable**
☐	Airport Land Use Commission	**Not Applicable**
☒	Air Pollution Control District	**Not Applicable**
☐	County Sheriff's Department	**Not Applicable**
☐	Regional Water Quality Control Board	**Not Applicable**
☐	CA Coastal Commission	**Not Applicable**
☐	CA Department of Fish and Game	**Not Applicable**
☐	CA Department of Forestry (Cal Fire)	**Not Applicable**
☐	CA Department of Transportation	**Not Applicable**
☐	Community Service District	**Not Applicable**
☐	Other _____	**Not Applicable**
☐	Other _____	**Not Applicable**

*** "No comment" or "No concerns"-type responses are usually not attached*

The following checked ("☒") reference materials have been used in the environmental review for the proposed project and are hereby incorporated by reference into the Initial Study. The following information is available at the County Planning and Building Department.

☒ Project File for the Subject Application

County documents

- ☒ Airport Land Use Plans
- ☐ Annual Resource Summary Report
- ☐ Building and Construction Ordinance
- ☐ Coastal Policies
- ☒ Framework for Planning (Coastal & Inland)
- ☒ General Plan (Inland & Coastal), including all maps & elements; more pertinent elements considered include:
  - ☒ Agriculture & Open Space Element
  - ☒ Energy Element
  - ☒ Environment Plan (Conservation, Historic and Esthetic Elements)
  - ☒ Housing Element
  - ☒ Noise Element
  - ☒ Parks & Recreation Element
  - ☒ Safety Element
- ☒ Land Use Ordinance
- ☐ Real Property Division Ordinance
- ☐ Trails Plan
- ☐ Solid Waste Management Plan

☐ Area Plan
and Update EIR
☐ Circulation Study

Other documents

☒ Archaeological Resources Map
☒ Area of Critical Concerns Map
☒ Areas of Special Biological Importance Map
☒ California Natural Species Diversity Database
☒ Clean Air Plan
☒ Fire Hazard Severity Map
☒ Flood Hazard Maps
☒ Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey for SLO County
☒ Regional Transportation Plan
☐ Uniform Fire Code
☒ Water Quality Control Plan (Central Coast Basin – Region 3)
☒ GIS mapping layers (e.g., habitat, streams, contours, etc.)

☐ Other ____

In addition, the following project specific information and/or reference materials have been considered as a part of the Initial Study:

Airport Land Use Commission of San Luis Obispo County. *Airport Land Use Plan for the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport.* Amended May 18, 2005. Accessed online: http://sloairport.com/index.php?p=custom_page&page_name=Airport%20Land%20Use%20Plan%20County

CAL FIRE, San Luis Obispo County Fire Department. *Fire Stations.* March 2012. Accessed online: http://www.calfireslo.org/operationsstations.html

California Geological Survey, Geologic Data Map No. 6, 2010 Fault Activity Map of California. Accessed online: http://www.quake.ca.gov/gmaps/FAM/faultactivitymap.html#

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). *Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coast Basin.* 2011. Accessed online: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/publications_forms/publications/basin_plan/

Rincon Consultants Inc., Natural Environment Study, *Stenner Creek Bridge Painting Project.* March 2012.

Rincon Consultants Inc., Natural Environment Study, *Santa Margarita Creek Bridge Painting Project.* March 2012.

Rincon Consultants Inc., Natural Environment Study, *East Branch San Luis Obispo Creek Bridge Painting Project.* March 2012.

Rincon Consultants, Inc., Initial Site Assessment Buckley Road/San Luis Obispo Creek San Luis Obispo, California, February 24, 2012.

Rincon Consultants, Inc., Initial Site Assessment Stenner Creek Road/Stenner Creek North of San Luis Obispo, California, February 24, 2012.

Rincon Consultants, Inc., Initial Site Assessment Tassajara Creek Road/Santa Margarita Creek North of San Luis Obispo, California, February 29, 2012.

San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District. *2001 Clean Air Plan, San Luis Obispo County*. December 2001. Accessed online: http://www.slocleanair.org/business/pdf/CAPintro.pdf

San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District. *CEQA Air Quality Handbook*. April 2012. Available at: http://www.slocleanair.org/images/cms/upload/files/CEQA_Handbook_2012_v1.pdf

San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District. San Luis Obispo County Attainment Status. January 6, 2011. http://www.slocleanair.org/air/pdf/2011/AttainmentStatus6Jan2011.pdf

San Luis Obispo, County of, Sheriff's Office. *SLO County Sheriff's Offices.* March 2012. Accessed online: http://www.slosheriff.org/ Contact/Department.aspx

San Luis Obispo, County of. General Plan, *Conservation and Open Space Element*, May 2010. Accessed online: http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Assets/PL/Elements/COSE.pdf

San Luis Obispo, County of. General Plan, *Natural Hazard Maps, Fire Hazard Severity Map*, November 2007. Accessed online: http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/zoning/Map_Image_Download_Center/Natural_Hazard_Maps.htm

San Luis Obispo, County of. General Plan, *Natural Hazard Maps, Dam Failure Inundation Areas*, April 2009. Accessed online: http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/zoning/Map_Image_Download_Center/Natural_Hazard_Maps.htm

San Luis Obispo, County of. General Plan, *Natural Hazard Maps, Earthquake Hazards Map* April 2009. Accessed online: http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/zoning/Map_Image_Download_Center/Natural_Hazard_Maps.htm

San Luis Obispo, County of. General Plan, *Natural Hazard Maps, FEMA-FIRM Flood Hazard Map*, August 2008. Accessed online: http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/zoning/Map_Image_Download_Center/Natural_Hazard_Maps.htm

United States Department of Agriculture. Natural Resources Conservation Service. *Web Soil Survey*. March 2012. Accessed online: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *Noise from Construction Equipment and Operations*, PB 206 717, 1971.

United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. *Effective Noise Control During Nighttime Construction*. March 12, 2012. Accessed online: http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/workshops/accessible/Schexnayder_paper.htm

United States Fish and Wildlife Service. 2010. *Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for the California Red-Legged Frog.*

PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Katie Drexhage, County of San Luis Obispo, and Cameron Johnson, South Branch Chief of the U.S. ACE, San Francisco, email correspondence on August 24, 2011.

Exhibit B - Mitigation Summary Table

Air Quality:

AQ-1 All paints used should be compliant with SLO APCD District Rule 433for Architectural Coatings. The sandblasting process will require a permit or registration pursuant to SLO APCD District Rule 202 and be required to use certified abrasives in accordance with Title 17, subchapter 6.

AQ-2 If sand blasting, the contractor must obtain a permit from the APCD or state registration from the Air Resources Board. Also, the contractor must use certified abrasives for unconfined blasting.

AQ-3 Depending on removal method. an APCD permit may be required. Contact the APCD Engineering Division at (805) 781-5912 for more information. Approval of a lead work plan by the APCD is required and must be submitted ten days prior to the start of the demolition.

AQ-4 Portable equipment, 50 horsepower (hp) or greater, used during construction activities may require California statewide portable equipment registration (issued by the California Air Resources Board) or an APCD permit. Operational sources may also require APCD permits.

The following list is provided as a guide to equipment and operations that may have permitting requirements, but should not be viewed as exclusive. For a more detailed listing, refer to the Technical Appendices, page 4-4,in the APCD's 2009 CEQA Handbook.

- Portable generators and equipment with engines that are 50 hp or greater
- Electrical generation plants or the use of standby generator

To minimize potential delays, prior to the start of the project. Please contact the APCD Engineering Division at (805) 781-5912 for specific information regarding permitting requirements.

Biological Resources:

BIO-1 On a daily basis, a qualified biologist(s) shall conduct a survey of the project site prior to the onset of work activities. If any life stage of the California red-legged frog, steelhead, or pond turtle are found and these individuals are likely to be killed or injured by work activities, the approved biologist shall be allowed sufficient time to move them from the site before work activities begin. Upon approval from the appropriate regulatory agency (USFWS, NMFS, or CDFG), the biologist(s) must relocate the individuals of these species the shortest distance possible to a location that contains suitable habitat not likely to be affected by activities associated with the proposed project. The biologist(s) shall maintain sufficiently detailed records of any individual of these species observed, captured, relocated, etc., including size, coloration, any distinguishing features and photographs (preferably digital) to assist him or her in determining whether translocated animals are returning to the original point of capture.

BIO-2 Only approved biologists will participate in activities associated with the capture, handling, and monitoring of California red-legged frogs and steelhead.

BIO-3 Ground disturbance will not begin until written approval is received from the USFWS (Service) that the biologist is qualified to conduct the work.

BIO-4 A Service-approved biologist will survey the project site no more than 48 hours before the onset of work activities. If any life stage of the California red-legged frog, steelhead, or pond turtle is found and these individuals are likely to be killed or injured by work activities, the approved biologist will be allowed sufficient time to move them from the site before work begins. The Service-approved biologist will relocate the individuals the shortest distance possible to a location that contains suitable habitat and that will not be affected by activities associated with the proposed project. The relocation site should be in the same drainage to the extent practicable. The relocation site will be coordinated with the Service prior to the capture of any California red-legged frogs.

BIO-5 Before any activities begin on a project, a Service-approved biologist will conduct a training session for all construction personnel. At a minimum, the training will include a description of all applicable sensitive species and their habitats, the specific measures that are being implemented to conserve these species for the project, and the boundaries within which the project may be accomplished. Brochures, books, and briefings may be used in the training session, provided that a qualified person is on hand to answer any questions.

BIO-6 A Service-approved biologist will be present at the work site until all California red-legged frogs have been relocated out of harm's way, workers have been instructed, and disturbance of habitat has been completed. After this time, the County will designate a person to monitor on-site compliance with all minimization measures. The Service-approved biologist will ensure that this monitor receives the training outlined in measure BIO-5 above and in the identification of California red-legged frogs. If the monitor or the Service-approved biologist recommends that work be stopped because California red-legged frogs would be affected in a manner not anticipated by the Service during review of the proposed action, they will notify the resident engineer (the engineer that is directly overseeing and in command of construction activities) immediately. The resident engineer will either resolve the situation by eliminating the adverse effect immediately or require that all actions causing these effects be halted. If work is stopped, the Service will be notified as soon as possible.

BIO-7 During project activities, all trash that may attract predators will be properly contained, removed from the work site, and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris will be removed from work areas.

BIO-8 All refueling, maintenance, and staging of equipment and vehicles will occur at least 60 ft (18 m) from riparian habitat or water bodies and in a location from where a spill would not drain directly toward aquatic habitat (e.g., on a slope that drains away from the water). The contractor will ensure contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations. Prior to the onset of work, a plan must be in place for prompt and effective response to any accidental spills. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.

BIO-9 Habitat contours will be returned to their original configuration at the end of project activities. This measure will be implemented in all areas disturbed by activities associated with the project, unless the Service determines that it is not feasible or modification of original contours would benefit the California red-legged frog.

BIO-10 Work activities should be scheduled for times of the year when impacts to the California red-legged frog would be minimal. For example, work that would affect large pools that may support breeding would be avoided, to the maximum degree

practicable, during the breeding season (November through May). Isolated pools that are important to maintain California red-legged frogs through the driest portions of the year would be avoided, to the maximum degree practicable, during the late summer and early fall. Habitat assessments, surveys, and coordination with the Service during project planning will be used to assist in scheduling work activities to avoid sensitive habitats during key times of the year.

BIO-11 To control sedimentation during and after project implementation, the County will implement best management practices outlined in any authorizations or permits issued under the authorities of the Clean Water Act that it receives for the specific project. If best management practices are ineffective, the County will attempt to remedy the situation immediately, in coordination with the Service.

BIO-12 Unless approved by the Service, water will not be impounded in a manner that may attract California red-legged frogs.

BIO-13 A Service-approved biologist will permanently remove any individuals of non-native species, such as bullfrogs *(Lithobates catesbeiana),* signal and red swamp crayfish *(Pacifasticus leniusculus; Procambarus clarkii),* and centrarchid fishes from the project area, to the maximum extent possible. The Service-approved biologist will be responsible for ensuring his or her activities are in compliance with the California Fish and Game Code.

BIO-14 To ensure that diseases are not conveyed between work sites by the Service-approved biologist, the fieldwork code of practice developed by the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force will be followed at all times.

BIO-15 Project sites will be re-vegetated with an assemblage of native riparian, wetland, and upland vegetation suitable for the area. Locally collected plant materials will be used to the extent practicable. Invasive, exotic plants will be controlled to the maximum extent practicable. This measure will be implemented in all areas disturbed by activities associated with the project, unless the Service determines that it is not feasible or practical.

BIO-16 Project activities will occur during the dry season (e.g., between May 1 and November 1) when water levels in the creek are lowest.

BIO-17 No trees shall be removed as a result of project activities.

BIO-18 No equipment shall enter the creek other than hand-held tools.

BIO-19 No pets shall be allowed at the project site.

BIO-20 Prior to starting work, the Contractor shall submit a Debris Containment and Collection Program to the County. The program must identify materials, equipment, and methods to be used when the existing paint system is disturbed and must include working drawings of containment systems, loads applied to the bridge by containment structures, and provisions for ventilation and air movement for visibility and worker safety. The debris containment system will either be removed at the end of each work shift or designed to allow wildlife passage through the site over night. All debris produced when the structural steel members are cleaned shall be contained. The containment system shall contain all water, debris, and dust produced when the paint system is disturbed. Debris accumulated inside the containment system will be removed before the end of each work shift. Debris will be stored in leak proof containers. Debris produced from the existing paint system will be disposed of at a Class 1 disposal facility in conformance with applicable Federal, State, and local hazardous waste laws. Laws that govern this work include: 1) Health and Safety Code, Division 20,

Chapter 6.5 (California Hazardous Waste Control Act); 2) Title 22; California Code of Regulations, Division 4.5, (Environmental Health Standards for the Management of Hazardous Waste); and 3) Title 8, California Code of Regulations. The debris must be hauled by a transporter currently registered with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control using correct manifesting procedures and vehicles displaying current certification of compliance.

BIO-21 The Contractor will monitor the ambient air and soil in and around the work area to verify the effectiveness of the containment system. The air and soil will be sampled for the presence of lead and heavy metals.

BIO-22 Nesting Bird Surveys.

a) Because construction is likely to occur during the nesting season of cliff swallows (March 1 to July 31), the bridge shall be periodically inspected for the occurrence of swallow nests. Nests shall be knocked down prior to being one-third completed. Inspection of the bridge would need to start in late February.

b) As construction is likely to be scheduled to occur during the nesting season of February 1 to August 31, preconstruction surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine the presence of nesting birds in the project site. If active nests are found to be present, construction within 100 yards of the active nests shall be delayed until the qualified biologist determines that the young have fledged.

BIO-23 Bat Surveys

a) If bat species are identified as roosting in areas that will be impacted, prior to construction, the Contractor will prepare a plan to exclude bat species from impact areas. If bats cannot be excluded from bat roosts, work activities will be avoided within 100 ft of active maternity roosts until bats pups have been weaned and are deemed independent by a qualified biologist. Regulatory agencies will be contacted for additional guidance if roosting bats are observed within the BSA during construction.

b) Before any disturbance activities on this project, the biologist(s) shall conduct a training session for all construction personnel regarding listed species potentially encountered on site. At a minimum, the training should include a description of the species and their habitats, the specific measures implemented to conserve them for the current project, and the boundaries within which the project may be accomplished.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials:

HAZ-1 Prior to the onset of project activities, the Contractor will prepare a Lead Compliance Plan and submit it to the County for review and approval.

HAZ-2 A copy of the ISA prepared for the project site must be given to the Contractor conducting work which will disturb painted surfaces at the Parkhill Road Bridge so that he/she is notified of the lead content and the condition of the lead containing surfaces prior to demolition, renovation, or any activity which would disturb the material.

HAZ-3 All work should be conducted in compliance with the CAL-OSHA and EPA regulations.